Hafa Adai!

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'$2M increase in PSS, CHC debt in 2 months'. PAGE 5
Marian Aldan-Pierce is re-elected MVA chair. PAGE 7

Way clear for $40M disbursement

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After lengthy discussions with Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas before and during their back-to-back sessions, the House of Representatives and the Senate adopted Friday a new joint resolution that paves the way for the NMI Retirement Fund's disbursement of over $40 million in remaining defined benefit plan employee contributions this week.

As of 7pm Sunday, the Fund had yet to issue an official statement as to the exact date for the release of checks and direct deposits but acting Senate president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) said it would be on Wednesday, citing his Sunday morning discussion with Fund administrator Lilian Pangelinan.

The disbursements were originally set for last week but a clause in the original resolution proved to be unacceptable to

See $40M on Page 4

More than 1.2K Guam residents sought shelter

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—As Typhoon Francisco grazed by the island Saturday, more than 1,200 residents sought protection at some of the island's public schools that were designated as shelters. Some centers reached capacity within a few hours and families had to be turned away.

Ultimately, however, everyone who needed a place to stay were provided shelter.

It was a little more than anticipated, as only six schools were initially designated as public shelters: Machanaonao Elementary, FBLG Middle, Astumbo, GW High, Talofofo and Merizo elementary schools.

But within a few hours of being open, some schools had already reached capac-

See SHELTER on Page 4

'3 more storms possible until Dec.'

» Supertyphoon Francisco moves farther away
» Tropical depression passing northeast of NMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Cruz-Miller

With Supertyphoon Francisco moving farther away from the Marianas and a tropical depression passing northeast of the CNMI yesterday, it is possible that up to three more storms or typhoons could pass or hit the Marianas until December.

National Weather Service meteorologist-in-charge Genevieve Cruz-Miller told *Saipan Tribune* that the months of October, November, and December are typically active times for tropical cyclone development.

"With this in mind, we are likely to see one to three additional threats to the islands," said Cruz-Miller in an email.

As of 1pm yesterday, the National

See STORMS on Page 4

IT&E's Dela Cruz wins $15K at 25th Club 200

Tina Dela Cruz, flanked by American Red Cross officials, receives her $15,000 grand prize at the culmination of Saturday night's Club 200 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan.
THOMAS MANGLONA II

See more photos on Page 13

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

» Over a thousand celebrate NMI chapter's 35 years of service

IT&E employee Tina Dela Cruz held two tickets for the 25th annual American Red Cross Club 200 but it was the one she got from the staff raffle they had at her office that won her the $15,000 grand prize Saturday night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

A resident of Chinatown and an IT&E employee for the past 14 years, Dela Cruz said she was in shock to have learned that she won the grand prize.

"I can't believe it," she said.

Dela Cruz plans to share her prize money with her parents.

"I am going to give some of the money to my mother. It is hard for her because she has bills and loans that she needs to pay and it has just been really hard for her," she said.

Dela Cruz said she had two raffle tickets—one that she bought from the American Red Cross and the other from the staff raffle drawing her office had before the event.

Over a thousand people attended Satur-

See DELA CRUZ on Page 4

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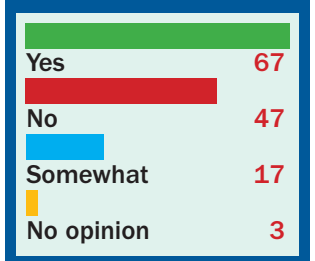
POLL RESULTS

Do you understand what the federal government shutdown is about?



Sunday, October 20, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL

28th Japanese Autumn Festival draws hundreds to the Paseo de Marianas. ➤ PAGE 14

ASIA

A vehicular accident in the northern Philippines kills 20 people and hurts 44 others. ➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

Like the character he plays, Clark Gregg has worked his way up the career ladder. ➤ PAGE 20

Local

Ex-Corrections officer gets 4-year sentence for 'ice' conspiracy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former Corrections officer who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice" was sentenced Friday to four years and three months in prison.

After serving his 51-month prison term, Jesse Reyes Babauta will be placed on three years of supervised release.

Babauta was also required to pay a $100 court assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community service. He was ordered to undergo a substance abuse treatment program under the direction of the U.S. Probation Office.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed Babauta to contact the U.S. Marshal's Office by telephone thrice a week in order to determine a date for his self-surrender to start his sentence.

Assistant attorney general Ross Naughton had recommended a sentence of three years and five months—the low end of the sentencing guidelines.

Babauta's lawyer, Michael Dotts, recommended a sentence of time served plus the maximum allowable probation.

Dotts said that a part of Babauta's probation, he should be required to submit to random drug testing and continue to attend counseling.

In the sentencing memorandum, Dotts said that Babauta is an addict and that even after his arrest, he could not control himself and continued to use drugs.

Babauta twice tested positive while on pre-trial release conditions.

Fortunately, Dotts said, with the help of the Office of Probation, Babauta was placed in counseling and it has thus far been successful.

"Jesse is no longer using drugs," Dotts said.

The lawyer said Babauta became addicted to "ice" before June 2010 and that he left the Department of Corrections because of his addiction.

Dotts said that Babauta tested positive during a random drug test of DOC employees and that ended his career.

Without income, the lawyer said, Babauta had to become creative to feed his drug habit. Dotts said the way that Babauta did this was to act as a middleman between other addicts and the drug distributors.

"His reward for supplying other addicts was drugs for himself or money to buy drugs," the lawyer said.

Presently, Dotts said, Babauta cares for his baby and provides income for his family through fishing.

Babauta pleaded guilty last year to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

According to the indictment, Babauta conspired with other persons to distribute "ice" from June 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012,

See OFFICER on Next Page

FSM obtains $6.17M Compact grant in September

In August, the Finance Department of the Federated States of Micronesia received Compact Grant assistance payments from the U.S. government totaling $6.17 million.

These payments were for Compact Sector Grants and Supplementary Education Grants: Education Sector Grants, $2,132,854; Health Sector Grants, $1,693,196; Supplementary Education Grants, $874,339; Enhanced Reporting and Accountability Grants, $541,727; Infrastructure Grants, $456,793; Capacity Building Grants, $211,000; Private Sector Development Grants, $175,000; and Environmental Sector Grants, $81,223. The total amount is $6,166,132.

This amount is provided as support and development to the States of the FSM and the FSM national government as follows: FSM national government, $468,100; Chuuk, $2,758,774; Kosrae, $475,001; Pohnpei, $1,507,257; and Yap, $957,000

Federal visit

Lisa Dammar, the new Health Sector grant manager for the FSM and the Marshall Islands, made her first visit to the FSM on Sept. 21-30 visiting the States of Pohnpei and Chuuk to tour hospitals, public health facilities, community health centers, and dispensaries.

Dammar said, "The islands are beautiful and reminded me of my native country, Jamaica. The people and the weather are warm and welcoming and the green mountains made me feel at home. I enjoyed traveling to see the health clinics in Pohnpei and Chuuk and look forward to my visits to Kosrae and Yap. After meeting many of the people I will be working with, I feel that together we can bring great benefits to the people of the FSM."

Dammar previously worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she administered over $350 million annually in grant assistance, and before that for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Ethiopia, where she provided technical assistance. She now oversees the FSM's nearly $20 million in Health Sector grants. ***(Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia)***

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King apologizes; Camacho vacates show-cause order

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has vacated his show-cause order that directed attorney Janet H. King, counsel for murder suspect Joseph A. Crisostomo, to explain why she should not be sanctioned for filing a motion that contained text that was allegedly copied without attribution to the source.

Camacho vacated his show-cause order after King filed a response on Friday in which she apologized to the court for not citing the opinion of a case law.

In a one-paragraph order, Camacho said he is satisfied with King's response and that no further action is necessary.

"The court extends its appreciation to attorney Janet King for her prompt written response," the judge said.

In her reply, King said she reviewed the court's show-cause order and has since reread the subject case law and reviewed the Commonwealth Rules of Evidence, the motion in limine, and the Commonwealth's opposition. She said she also consulted with colleagues in an effort to address the court's concern.

King also informed Camacho that she has sent a letter of apology to chief prosecutor Shelli Neal and assistant attorneys general Brian Flaherty and James B. McAllister, for the omitted citation in her motion.

King said it was not her intention to claim the analysis in *People vs. Ewoldt* as her own; rather, it was a failure to provide legal authority in support of the argument.

"Citation errors and omissions waste the court's time, the opposing counsels' time, and weakens the credibility of the proponent of the argument. For all of these failures, counsel apologizes," King said.

In his order to show cause, Camacho had directed King to explain in court a section of Crisostomo's motion to exclude evidence of prior acts.

"The purpose of this hearing is for the court to determine whether sanctions are necessary to ensure that Ms. King cease the practice of submitting filings composed of text that has been copied verbatim without attribution to the original source," Camacho said.

Camacho noted that paragraphs three through five of Crisostomo's motion were copied from the case in *People vs. Ewoldt*. However, the judge said, King did not cite the California Supreme Court opinion as the source of that material.

Camacho said that for the court to fulfill its duties, attorneys appearing before it must perform with competence, diligence, candor, and honesty.

King filed the motion last Aug. 30, three days after assistant attorney general McAllister notified the court that he intends to introduce evidence at trial of Crisostomo's other "crimes, wrongs, or acts."

In that notice, McAllister said that Crisostomo, who is facing charges in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero, is also a suspect in the killing of a Chinese woman in November 2006.

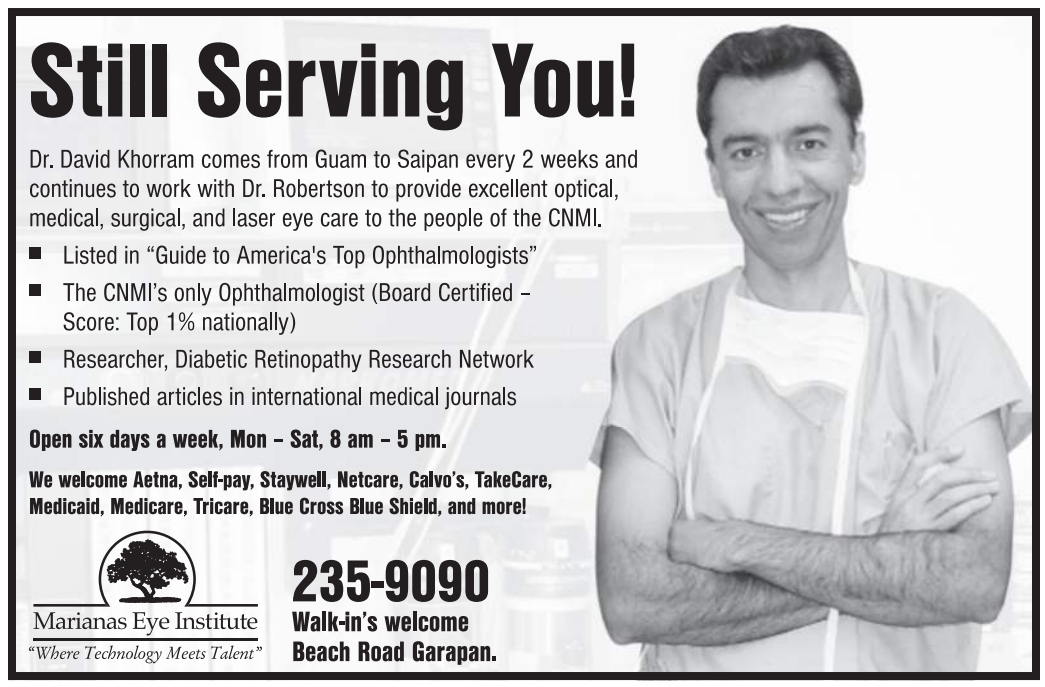
OFFICER

From Page 2

in one instance within 1,000 feet of a school.

Babauta has a prior conviction of disturbing the peace in 2007.

In February 2011, a man also filed in federal court a police brutality lawsuit against Babauta, DOC, and several other co-defendants. Quirino G. Adlaon alleged that while he was in jail on traffic charges, Babauta assaulted him, knocking his teeth loose. The then Corrections officer allegedly took a cup of water and splashed its content on the detainee's face.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Funding for opt-outs now rests with Senate

Funding the benefits of 16 individuals who opted out of the NMI Retirement Fund settlement class now rests with the Senate, after the House of Representatives passed the funding proposal Friday afternoon.

The Senate would have acted on House Bill 18-130, authored by Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), immediately after House passage.

However, the Senate's emergency session was intended for only one subject—a resolution that would pave the way for the disbursement of over $40 million in remaining defined benefit plan employee contributions—so it could not entertain the funding bill for opt-outs.

The Senate is expected to pass HB 18-130 during its session tomorrow at 1:30pm.

The bill seeks to reserve any lapsed funds from a certain account—business unit NMI DC Employer Contribution—to pay for retired Fund members who have decided to opt out of the class action settlement deal.

If DC members withdraw their funds, the government will not have to pay the 4 percent employer contribution, creating a lapse of funds from that particular account. This can be used to help fund the retirement benefits of retiree opt-outs.

The settlement class has over 4,000 members and only 16 opted out. The opt-outs did not get their pension on Oct. 15 while the retirees who remained members of the settlement class started getting a 25-percent cut on theirs that same day.

Among the opt-outs are two lawmakers—Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), who voted "present" on HB 18-130 on Friday, and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan). ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

STORMS

From Page 1

Weather Service said that the center of Supertyphoon Francisco was 540 miles west of Agrihan, 580 miles west-northwest of Saipan, and 575 miles northwest of Guam.

With maximum sustained winds of 160 miles per hour, Supertyphoon Francisco is moving west-northwest at 8 mph toward Okinawa.

Meanwhile, as of 1pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Depression 27W was 300 miles north-northeast of Agrihan, 345 miles north of Pagan, and 550 miles north of Saipan.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 30mph, Tropical Depression 27W is forecasted to remain a tropical depression through Monday, then dissipate over the Pacific Ocean.

On the naming of storms or typhoons, Cruz-Miller said each basin has a list of names provided to the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center for naming tropical cyclones once they reach tropical storm strength.

For the western North Pacific and the South China Sea, Cruz-Miller said, this list is composed of names contributed by the 14 countries associated with the Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific Typhoon Committee.

"Francisco is one of the names contributed by the USA. Other USA names include Maria, Higos, Omais, Roke, Utor, Matmo, Etau, Aere and Vicente," she said.

SHELTER

From Page 1

ity, forcing some families to be turned away. As a result, more public schools were opened up for shelter.

"Most of the people are kept in the cafeteria but some large families have been provided classrooms. Families with 20 or more, we put them in the classroom just so they can be together," said Astumbo shelter manager Dexter Fullo.

"The capacity for this school is on 300 based on the report that I saw. When I had made a shift change with the first shift manager the original count was at 371," he explained. "There were, according to the shift manager, several people, families, that were turned away late last night and we ended up sending them to Maria Ulloa."

In addition to Astumbo, Machanaonao and FBLG also reached its full capacity. Upi Elementary School was opened up to accommodate more residents.

Jean Garrido was one of those who sought shelter at the public schools. She says her home is prone to flooding so she took her family, including 10 children, to the Astumbo shelter. Garrido said she brought everything she could think of, from blankets and pillows, to snacks and food that could last them for a week.

"I don't know how long it would take for us to get back to normal," she said.

Another resident, Doris Gogue, explained she too sought shelter at Astumbo with her family. Living with an illness, Gogue said she was concerned that she would not be able to care for her children and grandchildren at her home.

"In case it does get worse, I, with my illness, I can't turn around and start grabbing these blankets once the wind starts blowing harder. So, like I was telling these guys, Joe, if it gets worse out there and I'm out there, my grandkids, I can't grab each ... and stuff like that so I decided to come over here because of them," said Gogue.

For the most part, Gogue said she's grateful that she had a place to keep herself and her grandchildren safe during the typhoon, but admits that it was uncomfortable trying to sleep among other families and men.

"All of sudden late last night it became real packed and I just I couldn't even sleep because I had grandkids and there's a lot of male adults coming in and out and that's my fear," she explained.

Fullo noted that for the most part, everything ran smoothly. He said there were no major concerns or issues throughout the night and everyone was cooperative.

"Currently right now all we're doing is providing shelter to make sure they're safe and they're okay. We're waiting for guidance from Homeland Security and Civil Defense if there's any other services we need to provide," said Fullo.

DOE deputy superintendent Robert Malay told PNC that after the all-clear was given yesterday afternoon, most of the shelters began clearing up and were eventually closed.

DELA CRUZ

From Page 1

day's 25th Club 200 and an estimated $130,000 in gross revenue was raised, according to ARC executive director John Hirsh.

"I am overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support," said ARC chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho. "I want to thank the CNMI community for the continued support. Without the community we wouldn't be able to do anything as an organization."

Saturday night's extravaganza also celebrated the CNMI chapter's 35 years of service.

According to Camacho, the funds raised will go toward the many programs the NMI Red Cross runs, such as disaster services, health and safety education, service to the armed forces, and service to the community and youth.

"I want to congratulate the organizers; they always do a good job," said Gov. Eloy Inos. This year once again, despite the many economic challenges facing the islands…you can see the number of people showing up here and it's for a good cause."

Mili Saiki, a Red Cross volunteer for the past 10 years, said that she has seen how a disaster such as a typhoon can devastate the islands.

"I can see what a great organization the Red Cross is and the amazing job that they have done," said Saiki.

Dedicated volunteers

The night also recognized two dedicated volunteers: Jean Sablan and Hen Horiguchi.

"These are two very special individuals who throughout the years have dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours with no expectation of any compensation award of any kind. They have humbly gone along and supported the Red Cross' missions," said Hirsh. "Both of these individuals have been instrumental in the success of the NMI chapter and the support of the Red Cross. They are true humanitarians."

Sablan, 65, said she was surprised to receive recognition for her volunteer work. "I was not expecting anything. When you are doing volunteer work you are not supposed to get anything back but the satisfaction of extending help to the community."

Both Sablan and Horiguchi have volunteered with the Red Cross for over 20 years through disaster preparedness programs, trainings, and events like the Club 200.

"I will continue to volunteer as long as my health allows it," Sablan added.

Dancing the night away

The five-hour event had hundreds of spectators on their feet and singing to the D.U.B band from Guam and Spanish bagpipe musician Yuki Kojima.

Participants also came in costumes that were a "salute to service"—the event's theme.

Bob Coldeen and Mili Saiki led the costume and dance contest segment of Club 200.

Tray Don and his partner, Amanda Allen, won the costume contest with their complementary "Mario and Luigi" outfit. This was a repeat victory for Don, who won last year's Club 200 costume contest as a cowboy. Both he and Allen have attended the Club 200 for the past seven years.

Kat Rila and her son Mark topped the dance contest, showing off their slick and smooth dance moves to old-school and modern hip-hop beats.

Kat Rila, dressed as a nurse, and her son, dressed as a police officer, were first on stage and immediately caught the crowd's attention.

"Every year I try to come here and enjoy and I like it. We might just be buying tickets but it can really help. This is great," Rila said.

Fifty people were treated to a sweet surprise when Hirsh announced that there would be 50 instant cash prize winners. Audience members reached under their seats and fifty out of the thousands there found an envelope with $20-plus cash.

One of newest feature of Club 200 was the Treasure Chest prizes. Ticket holders were called to the stage to pick a key that would possibly open one of the three chests filled with over $2,000 worth of prizes.

Husband-and-wife duo Russ and Kanae Quinn were fortunate enough to each win a chest, totaling up to more than $4,000 worth of prizes ranging from a submarine ride for five from Auto Marine Sports to a month of unlimited yoga classes at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The couple has attended the Club 200 for the past 20 years and so far this is their third chest bundle prize.

"We are going to have a good time and invite as many friends as we can to participate with the winnings. We are happy to be lucky enough to win," said Russ Quinn.

"The Club 200 has always been great over the past 20 years," added Kanae Quinn.

$40M

From Page 1

Betty Johnson's lawyers.

That Senate-added clause to the House version essentially spells out that the Legislature retains its constitutional rights to sue provisions in the settlement agreement that it finds unacceptable, even as the deal had already been accepted by the federal court and all the parties to the settlement.

San Nicolas, after the Senate's emergency session on Friday night, told *Saipan Tribune* that the new joint resolution without the unacceptable clause "makes it clear that the Legislature has acknowledged and approved the settlement agreement."

The AG said the plaintiff's counsels believe the clause in question "negates the legislative approval of the settlement agreement."

The House passed Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Joint Resolution 18-11, House Draft 1 at 3:16pm Friday by a vote of 16-1.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) was the only one who voted "no," maintaining that the settlement deal is "unconstitutional in the first place.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), one of the 16 individuals who opted out of the settlement class, voted "present," while Reps. Richard Seman (R-Saipan) and Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) were absent.

The House immediately transmitted the resolution to the Senate, which was on standby for an emergency session at 3:30pm.

After more than two hours of yet another round of discussion and question-and-answer with the AG, the Senate adopted HJR 18-11, HD1 without amendment at exactly 6pm.

The Senate vote, however, was not via roll call but by voice vote.

Acting Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) later told *Saipan Tribune* that at least two senators were poised to vote "no" had it been a roll call.

Hocog also said that prior to the emergency session, the Senate was already set to reject the new House joint resolution because senators believe that the original resolution that the Legislature approved already met the legislative action required under the settlement deal.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) voiced out their concerns mainly on what they deem "dictation" and interference by outside counsels on CNMI legislative matters.

Reyes said he finds it "unusual" and "unheard of" that the lawyers for a plaintiff suing the CNMI government and billing it exorbitant fees would "dictate" what the Legislature can and cannot put in a resolution that is deemed meeting "legislative approval" under the Fund settlement agreement.

But Hocog said in the end, the Senate also acknowledged that proving their point to the plaintiff's lawyers, the Fund, and the court could take time and further delay the disbursements of DB funds to employees.

During the House session, the vice speaker said the Senate amendment to the original resolution, HJR 18-10, HD1, "basically killed" that same resolution.

Dela Cruz said the problematic clause from the Senate says the Legislature is basically approving only a part of the settlement agreement and reserves the right to sue the parts it disagrees with.

"That's why plaintiff's counsels said 'you're not acting in good faith,'" Dela Cruz said, adding it was not also clear which parts the Legislature, particularly the Senate, disagrees with.

Prior to the House session originally set for 2pm, the House and Senate jointly held a meeting with the AG. After that, the House proceeded with its session and senators once again held a closed-door meeting with the AG. On Thursday, the Senate also met with the AG on the same issue.

During its emergency session, the Senate dissolved into a committee of the whole to continue discussing with the AG their concerns with the original resolution and the new one.

Adela Capati, a government employee who is waiting for the disbursement of the remainder of her DB contribution, patiently attended the House and Senate sessions, hoping that the Legislature would help ensure the disbursements will not be further delayed.

"Life is too short. All we ask is that we be given the money we worked for. It's enough that we're not getting the interest, why does the Legislature have to further delay the release of our own money?" Capati asked.

Meanwhile, Hocog said yesterday that based on information from the Fund, disbursements could begin as early as Wednesday. This is both direct deposit and release of checks on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, he added.

Hocog said he discussed the matter with Retirement Fund's Pangelinan on Sunday morning.

He said Fund representatives will be on Rota, for example, this morning to Wednesday, "and with the refund checks to be secured first with the Bank of Guam."

"The reason being is that the U.S. Federal Treasury is still closed to upload the funds due that our Monday here is their Sunday in the U.S. Meaning that the time the recipients will definitely receive their refund is Wednesday," Hocog added.

He asked for the public's patience and to allow the administration and the Legislature to work together to find additional sources of revenue to pay the interest on the contributions.

CUC EMERGENCY DECLARATION EXTENDED ANEW

'$2M increase in PSS, CHC debt in 2 months'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended anew on Friday a state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., showing a $2 million increase in the Public School System and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s unpaid obligations to CUC in a two-month period—from $16 million as of Aug. 20 to $18 million as of Oct. 18.

Inos' Executive Order 2013-22 dated Oct. 18 extends the CUC emergency for another 30 days.

The emergency declaration extension allows CUC to continue employing skilled technical foreign workers in the absence of qualified U.S. citizen workers, among other things.

CUC has some 48 non-U.S. citizen workers in various divisions that require their special skills and expertise. Most of them are from the Philippines.

The EO also allows the governor to reprogram funds and suspend procurement laws or rules to address the CUC emergency.

"CUC is owed approximately $18 million by [PSS] and [CHC] and is owed over millions more by residential users," the governor said in his latest EO.

He said there is conflict and potential conflict between CUC and government agencies over money owed and other issues.

"Such conflict drains resources especially if it results in the parties going to court. Interagency cooperation and oversight is vital to ensure that government agencies can continue its operations without draining CUC's remaining resources," Inos said.

The governor added that although the CNMI economy has recently improved, the improvement is "only marginal" and the economy and the government's finances are "still fragile."

"This government strains to meet its obligations," he added.

He also said CUC often only has days' worth of purchased diesel fuel to power its system because it lacks the funds to buy oil from its sole, cash-only supplier.

CUC has no credit or other means to buy fuel other than the revenue it collects from its customers, Inos said.

Moreover, because of the continued lack of a functioning CUC board and the difficulty the Office of the Governor has been experiencing in its search of volunteers who meet the complex statutory qualifications, CUC's executive power continues to rest with the governor's designated executive director.

However, Inos has been saying that he is close to nominating board members for Senate consideration.

Man gets 1 year prison term for selling $50 worth of 'ice'

A man who sold $50 worth of methamphetamine or "ice" was slapped with a one-year prison term in the Superior Court last week.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Patrick Acosta to five years in prison, all suspended except for one year. He was given credit for time served and is expected to complete his sentence on Dec. 31, 2013.

Upon release, Acosta will be placed on supervised probation for four years. He was required to pay $100 court costs and $400 probation fees.

Acosta was ordered to submit to an evaluation by the Community Guidance Center focusing on drug assessment, treatment, and screening.

Acosta pleaded guilty on Aug. 6 to illegal possession of a controlled substance as part of the plea deal. The remaining charge of trafficking of a controlled substance was dropped.

Acosta was caught selling "ice" on Jan. 9, 2013, in Chalan Kanoa. Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Dennis Reyes stated in his report that a cooperating source managed to buy $50 worth of "ice" from Acosta. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION

Five JROTC cadets from the CNMI competed in the Annual Marksmanship Competition hosted by Simon Sanchez High School in Guam on Oct. 19, 2013. The CNMI team included Amante Andrada (Saipan Southern High School), Joseph Atalig (Kagman High School), Jerry Borja (Kagman High School), William Johnson (Saipan Southern High School), and James Jr. Kintaro (Saipan Southern High School). They were accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Richard S. Basa and Master Sgt. James Burke.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Red Cross volunteers help survivors of Star Marianas crash

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter got a lot of kudos from the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles, California, for helping survivors of the Oct. 7 Star Marianas on Tinian.

ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said they welcome the gratitude of consul Yu Xiong and vice consul Hongming Wang but they were actually just doing there job.

"We're flattered that they said such nice things about us. But this is always what we do. This is not something that is out of the ordinary. This was par for the course. Whenever there is a disaster here in the Commonwealth, the Red Cross is there. It's that simple. We were there and we worked with the families and we worked with the professional first responders," he said following last week's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan where he served as guest speaker.

Hirsh said one of gestures the Chinese consul and vice consul probably appreciated the most from the ARC-NMI Chapter was when their mental health volunteers went out and bought four blankets for families of the survivors as well as the victims at the hospital.

"He bought them those blankets because it was cold at the hospital. It really meant a lot to the family members of the survivors and the victims. It's such a small thing but it meant a lot to them."

Hirsh's staff also bought new clothes and shoes for the youngest survivor of the Star Marianas crash.

"For the 3-year-old girl we went out and bought all new clothes and shoes because she lost everything from the crash. She was ambulatory right away as she only needed to stay at the hospital for only a couple of days. We also got her teddy bears."

Aside from looking after the needs of survivors and their families at the Commonwealth Health Center, Hirsh said they were also active in assessing and treating not only the mental health of survivors and their family, but those of first responders as well.

"So we work for about seven to eight hours everyday at CHC with our colleagues at the hospital to try and ensure all the needs of the family members are met. This was collaboration among CHC, the Red Cross, the Chinese Consulate from California, and the local Chinese association to see if there's anything we can do.

"This week we're going to Tinian to meet with the people who actually came upon the crash site because it was a very traumatic scene. They need to process it. They [mental health volunteers] use the right words and get people to talk about their feelings. We do case work and make those determinations."

Hirsh said the ARC-NMI Chapter has been very active in this particular disaster with their mental health volunteers.

"We have certified social workers that work for the Red Cross and volunteer for the Red Cross. So in addition to their regular working hours as mental health counselors they also go through intensive Red Cross training. So when an aviation disaster happens or any major calamity, we activate those people so they meet with the families, victims, and even first responders." ***(Mark Rabago)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adopt of Minutes
  - i. August 1, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - ii. September 11, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - iii. October 3, 2013 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. Division Monthly Reports
- b. Update on CDBG Matters
- c. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
- d. Update on LIHTC Program
  - 1. Tasi Homes, LLC
- e. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
  - 1. Loans for Review and Approval

IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
- a. Rota Field Office
- b. Tinian Field Office

V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
- a. Financial Statements
- b. Fiscal Division Audit Reports for July & August 2013

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Marian Aldan-Pierce is re-elected as MVA chair

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors last week re-elected by acclimation Marian Aldan-Pierce as chairman of the islands' tourism body.

Aldan-Pierce, who is president of DFS Galleria, along with Vicente M. Calvo and Emma Villagomez, were confirmed by the Senate to serve the board anew last month after Gov. Eloy S. Inos renominated them in August.

Also elected during Monday's MVA reorganization were James Nelson of Docomo Pacific as vice chair, Calvo as treasurer, and Pacific Micronesia Tours Inc.'s Kazusuke Fukuju as secretary.

In her remarks during her confirmation hearing in September, Aldan-Pierce said the MVA has successfully capitalized in the emerging China market with the opening of two representative offices in Beijing and Shanghai.

"As a result, visitor arrivals from China alone have increased 42 percent to over 100,000 this fiscal year, compared to last. Through our market diversification strategies, visitors from Japan, Korea, and China now comprise about 30 percent each of our market mix, which help keep us from being over-dependent on a single market. Although small in number, the lucrative market of Russia has also nearly doubled to over 10,000 visitors so far this fiscal year."

She thanked the Senate as well as the House of Representative and the Executive Branch for working closely with the MVA and Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands on the 5 percent hotel occupancy tax increase implemented this year.

"A majority of this funding is going to increase marketing, as MVA's primary job is to promote the islands. In this regard, we continue to promote the Northern Marianas as one destination with three distinct islands."

For instance, Aldan-Pierce said Russian television crews and high-end print media were on Tinian and Rota in August to film local cultural life, attractions, and food that will air nationwide in Russia and bring more than $40 million in advertising exposure.

In July, the Korean television show "Final Adventure" filmed three episodes on Tinian, also worth millions in exposure.

Aldan-Pierce

"A China media and travel agent familiarization tour of Rota and Tinian in June emphasized the creation of tour packages for these two islands. Of course, Saipan also receives a number of familiarization tours through the year, which the MVA and its members support either financially or logistically."

A portion of the hotel occupancy tax increase will be used on several projects that MVA's destination enhancement committee has identified, starting with safety signage at the Grotto and Obyan Beach and the renovation of the train engine at Sugar King Park, which have both been completed. She said similar renovations on the two train engines on Rota are in the works.

She said a trial two-month security and ranger service at the bottom of Grotto is also being conducted to enforce the statutes of Coastal Resources Management and Division of Fish & Wildlife and to enhance safety at the site.

"We have also started to repair the railings at Bird Island Lookout and Banzai Cliff. The Mt. Tapochao Enhancement Project completed in February still requires minor ground surface work to level out the unpaved path leading to the viewing deck, as well as some backfilling."

Another project that's paying dividends is MVA's Beautify My Marianas campaign, according to Aldan-Pierce.

"We continue to offer $100 per mile for cleanups by schools and non-profit groups on all three islands. We are also accessing other tourist sites on Tinian and Rota for possible enhancement, and other projects are being prioritized by the committee," she said.

GPD release: Man dead from 'possibly self-inflicted gunshot'

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—A Yigo man is dead and woman is on life support at GMH from what Guam Police Department spokesman A.J. Balajadia says is "possibly…a self-inflicted gunshot wound."

GPD's Criminal Investigations Division is conducting "death investigations" only at this point, he said.

» Woman on life support

However, Balajadia cautions that the official determination of the cause of death will be made Monday by medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola following an autopsy.

"The male individual who was found dead at the scene is scheduled for an autopsy tomorrow [Monday] afternoon which should provide more information regarding his death," states Balajadia in a release.

GFD spokesman Lt. Phil Camacho says that medics responded to a shooting at 8:14pm Saturday on Chalan Emsley in Yigo.

When officer from the Dededo Precinct arrived they found what Balajadia said was "a male individual, Yapese, possibly in his 60's and a female individual Yapese, possibly 25."

The man was dead at the scene, while the woman was transported to GMH. Nursing supervisor Shelly Mangrobang declined to disclose the woman's condition Sunday morning. Balajadia says in his Sunday morning release that the woman was on life support at GMH.

The names of the victims have not been released pending family notification.

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Sengebau Poetry Competition on Wednesday

The 10th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre this Wednesday, Oct. 23, beginning at 6pm.

The competition, which honors the late Valentine Sengebau, is open to junior high and high school students and is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

It has two divisions: junior and senior. For the latter, participants must submit poems of any form that does not exceed 250 words. The poems must address themes relating to culture, identity, and/or change in the Northern Mariana Islands.

For the junior division, contestants must recite a poem from Sengebau's Microchild, and the poem must be from the Cultural Identity, Politics, or Images section. Students are also required to give a 1-3 minute introduction to explain why he/she chose the particular poem and/or to give their personal interpretation of the poem.

Last year, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School junior's Kyle David Manuel Sandbergen and Marianas Baptist Academy's Yuuki Nishida won the 9th edition of the competition.

Sandbergen's piece, titled Time Heals All, won him first place in the Senior Division, which saw 13 other participants in the category.

Nishida topped the Junior Division with his reading of the poem Old Man and the World.

Sengebau spent the last 25 years of his life in his adopted home of Saipan. The Palauan poet composed dozens of poems that were published in the Micronesian Reporter and the Marianas Variety, and the poetry expressed the personal joys and sorrows of his life and also explored the issues of the day, such as concerns regarding loss of cultural identity in the islands as well as the political negotiations between the United States and Micronesia.

To ensure that his work will be enjoyed by future generations, the council published an anthology of Sengebau's poetry, Microchild, in 2004. The annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition was established to support the work of young Micronesian poets and to honor the legacy of Micronesia's foremost poet. ***(Mark Rabago)***

LITERACY ADVOCATES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Instructors of the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program Trainer & Story Exploring met at the Napu Room of the Pacific Island Club on Oct. 14, 2013, to discuss the program's implementation plans for school year 2013-2014, current issues and challenges, and 5-year statistical report on adult course completion at elementary school sites. The CNMI Motheread Program is a literacy program of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

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NMHC IFB 2011-004 (A – F)

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF NMHC'S PROPERTIES (LISTING A-F) IN SAIPAN"

Bid packets will be available on Monday, October 21, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **9:00 a.m.** on **Monday, October 28, 2013,** at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Section 8 Multi-Family Account.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jae Ho Hong is no longer affiliated with the following entities:

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Saipan: Arctic Circle Air Company.

He has no authority to bind any of the named companies.

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Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

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Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, October 31, 2013.

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Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 21, 2005

Babauta: MPLA agrees to resume talks with Verizon
Responding to the clamor by Verizon's employees for him to intervene in the Marianas Public Lands Authority's lawsuit against the company, Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday paid the workers a visit at their Susupe offices and assured them that the MPLA had agreed to get back to the negotiating table in the hope of ending litigation. Babauta said he met with the MPLA's board members, who agreed to a 30-day "cooling off" period to allow the agency and Verizon's owners, Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. and Pacific Telecom Inc., to proceed with negotiations to settle their dispute.

Heinz alleges job threats vs worker
Independent candidate for governor Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider accused the Babauta administration yesterday of threatening employees with job loss if they don't actively support the "BB ticket" for re-election. In a statement, Hofschneider said that an increasing number of reports reaching his camp suggest that the Babauta administration is resorting to this tactic. "This is not a first in the history of the CNMI," Hofschneider said, "But it is illegal and unethical and shouldn't be tolerated."

October 21, 2006

Alien with student permit is nabbed for overstaying
Immigration agents recently arrested for allegedly overstaying in the CNMI a 35-year-old man who applied for student entry permit under the Saipan University. Mingnan Jin has been overstaying in the CNMI since June 16, 2005, according to Immigration Investigator Richard T. Lizama. Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a bail of $100 cash and $900 in unsecured bond for Jin's temporary release.

Big Boys Toys Expo in Guam
Guam's premier men's lifestyle event, GGEFCU's Big Boys Toys Expo, starts today, Oct. 21, from 10am to 8pm, and will continue tomorrow, Oct. 22, from 10am to 6pm. "From luxury to extreme and everything in between! Get up close and personal with the finest collection of jaw dropping innovations, life-style hardware and action ever seen under one roof," GGEFCU said in a statement. This year's Big Boys Toys event combines the greatest and the latest, plus dynamic exhibitor action: high performance cars and motorcycles; the latest in telecommunications; the latest in auto and detailing; the latest in audio, video and digital entertainment; extreme sports and sporting goods; luxury holiday home designs; health & fitness competition, a fashion show by Urban Trendsetter, performances from SKIP entertainment, Fusion dancers and Bailamos, LIVE bands featuring Kaya and Sakkan and so much more.

October 21, 2007

Matson to hike surcharge in Dec.
Prices of basic commodities on the islands, already high due to the soaring cost of fuel and freight, will get even higher in December when Matson Navigation Co. raises its fuel surcharge on services to Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The Oakland, Calif.-based company announced Friday that the surcharge will go up by two percentage points from 24 to 26 percent effective Dec. 2. The shipping company said it was raising the price of shipments because of record high fuel costs. Crude-oil futures hit $90 a barrel on Friday then slipped back to $88.60, closing the week 6 percent higher. Matson said it was the first fuel adjustment it has made in four months, but warned that future increases may be coming because of the instability of oil prices.

23 youth leaders sworn in to Youth Congress
Twenty-three young leaders were inducted to politics in a tearful swearing-in ceremony yesterday morning. The members of the 10th Youth Congress took their oath of office before family, friends, and a host of lawmakers and other government officials in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill. Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona administered the oath. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Joseph M. Mendiola, and House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta were also present. Anita Hofschneider of Marianas Baptist Academy was elected the new Youth Congress speaker after beating three-time youth senator Naomi Sablan of Northern Marianas College by three votes.

Haunted House being built by Saipan Mayor's Office

The Saipan Mayor's Office has something big in store for trick-or-treaters this coming Halloween on Oct. 31.

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores said his staff is currently busy putting the finishing touches on the haunted house they are building on the ground floor of the Ladera Center along Beach Road in San Jose.

Flores said the owner of the building was kind enough to allow them to use the 2,000-square-foot vacant room on the ground floor for their Halloween activity. The Saipan Mayor's Office is housed on the second floor of the Ladera Center.

"Last year we celebrated Halloween for the second time by issuing out candies. The kids were very happy about it. This time we're trying to make it different from last year by getting a room downstairs, which was offered by the landlord for free, and having a haunted house there."

Those who cannot make it to the mayor's haunted house in San Jose can still get treats from the mayor's office, according to Flores.

"Some kids unfortunately can't make it to the haunted house like those residing in Kagman. So I reached out to the mayors of Guam to donate some excess candies. They are happy to help us and they said they would ship whatever excess candies they can get. If that happens we will have an extended Halloween outreach in Kagman and hand candies to the kids there."

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Mayor's Office staff clown around while constructing the haunted house at the ground floor of the Ladera Center along Beach Road in San Jose.

Flores is also thinking of making their treats healthier this year by including toothbrushes and toothpastes in the items they give out.

In related news, Rotary Club of Saipan president Laila Y. Boyer last Tuesday announced that its Trunk or Treat activity will push through at the Marianas Business Plaza on Oct. 31 from 5pm to 9pm.

Boyer made the announcement prior to the end of the federal shutdown last Thursday. The shutdown resulted in the closure of the American Memorial Park, which for years hosted and even organized the Truck of Treat.

Earlier, chief ranger Jason Beatty said AMP is turning over the hosting duties of the event to the Rotary Club because the civic organization is better equipped to organize the Trunk or Treat. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Community Briefs

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Oct. 21 – 23, from 8pm to 1am. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The following activities have been lined up for the month:

- Oct. 19: Celebrity Bagging at Joeten Susupe, Joeten Garapan, Joeten Super Store, and Joeten Dandan
- Oct. 21, 4pm: Pink ribbon distribution, Oleai intersection
- Oct. 25, 4pm: Pink ribbon distribution, Garapan intersection
- Oct. 25: PINKTOBER, 6pm – 10pm, Hard Rock Café ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Wednesday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2013, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

CPTAB membership meeting on Tuesday

The Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board wishes to inform the general public that it will be holding its 2013 4th regular membership meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013, from 9am to 1pm, at the Governor's Executive Conference Room, first floor, Administration Bldg., Capital Hill, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public and interested individuals may submit written or oral comments on any specific item on the agenda. For more information, call COTA at 664-2292 or 2276 or email at cota@gov.mp. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on Tuesday

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

FOA membership meeting on Tuesday

The Friends of the Arts will be holding its first membership meeting of the 2014 season on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at the Taste of India Restaurant in Garapan, starting at 6:30pm with entertainment starting at 7pm. The cost for the meeting, which includes a buffet dinner, is $15 for adult members of FOA (age 12 and above) and guests, $8 for children (age 4-12) and no charge for children younger than 4 years. Email Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

The 2014 season will begin Oct. 25-26-27 at the MHS Dolphin Theater with the production of *The Ives Have It: The Ways and Means of David Ives*, a selection of one-act plays by David Ives. Season tickets will be available at $40 for adults and $25 for students. ***(PR)***

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-002

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-14-002, Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 14, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **October 28, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org & Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles.warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Republican pols can't keep poking themselves in the eye

At last, Americans can see several months down the road. Congress' long-awaited deal that reopened the government and raised the debt ceiling means the country won't keep living without a government and, worse, walk on its debts.

The situation should never have gotten that extreme. Still, this newspaper is relieved seasoned senators crafted a compromise. Also important: GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas chose not to block it. Better a solution that will last until early next year than no pact at all.

As the horizon becomes clearer, or simply slightly less cloudy, it is obvious that Republicans can't keep poking themselves in the eye. Going back several elections, business Republicans thought they could saddle up with tea party conservatives. But the fissure has cracked wide open since Cruz moved to close the government with his revolt against Obamacare.

First, there's a fundamental difference between a limited-government conservative and an anti-government conservative. The former believes government must do core functions right. The latter questions the fundamental need for those functions.

In Texas, for example, Republicans such as House Speaker Joe Straus are asking voters to approve a constitutional amendment that would fund many of Texas' water needs. But a small band of other Republicans question the need for such financing or believe water supplies should be entirely privatized.

The party will stumble around blindly until it resolves these differences. It needs resolution sooner than later.

Second, these factions offer radically different approaches to governing. Business Republicans uphold principle but will compromise for the larger good. Tea party Republicans believe principle overrides all; better to lose on principle than to win or tie on compromise.

You could see this tension daily in U.S. House Speaker John Boehner's face. The Republican leader prefers governing by combining principles with compromise, but he was hamstrung by Cruz and crew, who believe compromise makes a leader weak.

As it looks ahead, the GOP should embrace limited-government conservatism for its sake and the country's. Tea party conservatives can light up rallies with speeches, but they can't govern. The nation can't move ahead without leaders who know how to bargain.

We're encouraged that an increasing number of business Republicans are stepping up to address this tension. The News' Michael Lindenberger reported in Wednesday's editions how executives in Dallas, such as Dallas Regional Chamber president Jim Oberwetter, believe the GOP needs more leaders who prefer broad solutions over narrow ideology.

Similarly, national business groups are talking about fielding GOP primary candidates. They want Republicans in office who lack the death wish of no-compromise conservatives.

Business Republicans can't be timid, though. They are squaring off against those who would rather starve than win a half-loaf. And this battle has only just begun.

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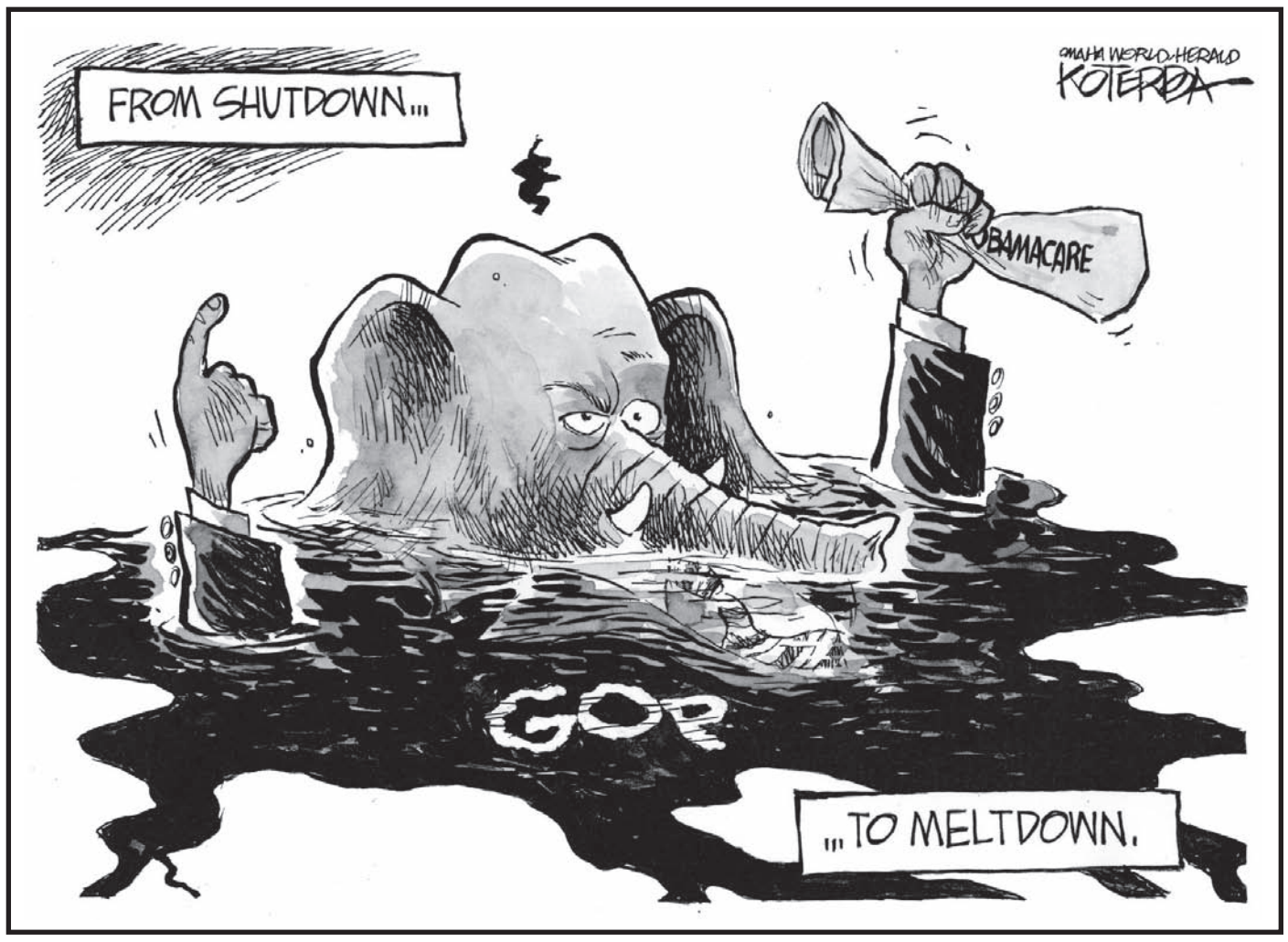


A ride through Empathy Gap with a faithful manservant

By KEVIN HORRIGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kevin Horrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. *Readers may write to him at:* St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or email him at khorrigan@post-dispatch.com.*

I am accustomed to rising late, having my breakfast served in my bed while I sip a weak Scotch and soda, smoke a cigar and read the papers. Then I summon my secretaries and dictate reams of perfectly parsed prose while I sip another weak Scotch and soda before Jenkins, my manservant, draws my bath and dresses me. Only then am I ready to attack the day.

This was Churchill's regimen and who am I to second-guess Winston? Of late, however, I've switched from reading actual papers to reading them on an iPad, which Jenkins operates for me, operating something called a "tablet" being somewhat beneath my station.

In this posture last weekend I ran across the "Opinionator" blog of the *New York Times*. Jenkins briefly tried hiding it from me. "I am not sure you would enjoy this, sir," he said.

"Poppycock," said I. "I am a man of the people. I need to see what the popular press is saying."

The headline read, "Rich People Just Care Less."

"This is absurd," I said.

"I thought you would say that, sir," said Jenkins. "Let's page forward to the 'Weddings and Celebrations' section so you can see what hedge-fund manager's son is marrying which banker's daughter on which romantic Hawaiian beach."

"No," I said firmly. "To do that would endorse the truth of the accusation. I'm rich. I care. Therefore I shall read this silly man's lies."

In this blog, a psychologist named Daniel Goleman reported that, "A growing body of recent research shows that people with the most social power pay scant attention to those with little such power."

He went on to suggest, "This has profound implications for societal behavior and government policy. Tuning in to the needs and feelings of another person is a prerequisite to empathy, which in turn can lead to understanding, concern and, if the circumstances are right, compassionate action.

"In politics, readily dismissing inconvenient people can easily extend to dismissing inconvenient truths about them. The insistence by some House Republicans in Congress on cutting financing for food stamps and impeding the implementation of Obamacare, which would allow patients, including those with pre-existing health conditions, to obtain and pay for insurance coverage, may stem in part from the empathy gap."

"Empathy gap!" said I. "Have you ever heard anything so absurd!"

"No sir," said Jenkins, rolling his eyes to indicate (I presume) that he shared my outrage.

"Did I not wait patiently in the car last week while you saw the emergency room physician about the mole on your neck?"

"You did, sir."

"What was the diagnosis, by the way?"

"Stage M1a melanoma, sir."

"Hmm," said I. "Those numbers and letters are so confusing. I suppose they'll sort it all out. Help yourself to a Band-Aid."

"You are a prince among men, sir."

"No trouble."

"There may be some expensive treatments ahead for me, sir," Jenkins said.

"Well, you'll manage. Please try to schedule them on your afternoon off."

Later in the day, at a luncheon at my club, I happened to mention Goleman's commentary to Buckman. He is an extraordinarily wealthy tycoon with whom I am trying to cultivate a relationship, inasmuch as he has been blackballing me at the country club.

"Astonishingly," I say, "Goleman insists that even within social groups, this failure of empathy may prevail. Everyone has someone he can ignore, someone to look down on. Poor whites may feel empowered to look down on poor blacks. Wealthy people may give short shrift to the somewhat less wealthy."

"Eh, what?" said Buckman, brushing me aside. "Excuse me."

I accompanied him as he walked away, certain that he would find my views valuable. "Apparently it's in Freud. The 'narcissism of minor differences,' he called it. The nature of man impels him to manifest aggressiveness to someone. Thus do indigenous tribes war with other indigenous tribes. Thus the persecution of the Jews and the bourgeois. Can you imagine such a thing?"

"Get out of my way," said Buckman.

That night, as I read P.G. Wodehouse in bed and Jenkins tucked in my covers, I mentioned Buckman's reaction.

"Homo homini lupus," said Jenkins.

"I beg your pardon," I said with alarm. "Did you call me what I think you did?"

"No sir, it is Latin."

I am not as familiar with Latin as Jenkins, who is of sturdy papist stock. "Do translate," said I.

"Freud quoted Plautus, the Roman playwright. It means 'Man is the wolf to men.' It suggests that it is the nature of human beings to prey on other, presumably weaker, human beings."

I mulled this over. I said, "So if Plautus, and Dr. Freud, are to be believed, it is in my nature to be cruel to other people."

"Yes, sir, but recall what Katharine Hepburn said to Humphrey Bogart in 'The African Queen.'"

"What was that?" sleepily said I.

"'Nature, Mr. Allnut, is what we are put in this world to rise above.'"

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Songdo International

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

We shed our customary skeptical lens to give the planned Songdo International Green community a thumbs-up until proven otherwise. Returning to Zhongguo from Honolulu, the Shenyang flight on Korea Air overnights in Incheon, a wrench on an otherwise pleasant trip that has only 300-plus air miles to go. It takes two hours to navigate the distance as flights loop around *Chaotian's* (North Korea) airspace.

The stop at Incheon entails going through immigration, getting on a bus limousine for a 30-minute ride to an Incheon hotel in the evening, and getting up very early before 5 in the morning for the bus ride back to the line at immigration and into the plane.

We ended up in a hotel in Songdo, a 1,500-acre reclaimed land along Incheon's waterfront less than 10 miles from the international airport. Since we are familiar with the vaunted "ghost towns" of China where planned communities meant for a million people have occupants barely hitting 50K, we are weary of globally planned urban habitats.

Globalization pushed the envelope when airports started building outside settled communities. We remember Narita coming out of Tokyo's Haneda, Pudong out of Shanghai's Hongquiao, Incheon out of Seoul's Kimpo, Dallas-Ft. Worth out of Love Field, O'Hare out of Chicago's Midway, to name a few. Earlier, Newark joined La Guardia and the new JFK to form NYC's airport authority consortium. London has its Gatwick-Heathrow axis, Paris it Orly-Charles de Gaul, and Rome's Leonardo da Vince - Fiumicino and G.B. Pastine - Ciaopino airports. This dynamic has been duplicated in many parts of the world and has given the global connectedness of many metropolitan centers.

Top-down globalization is the mode of the world of business, of transnational corporations imposing a global design on local conditions. Japanese business gave us the word *duchakuka,* aka "glocalization," to mean the local application of a global method or concern. Our community development style facilitated the bottom-up way of enabling local situations to determine their own direction and meet their own requirements, enabling the local political dynamic to be in active dialogue with global economic realities, our contribution to glocalization.

It is in this context that we viewed Songdo. We've been transiting in Incheon for many years, on our way either to Saipan or the Philippines, and our overnight billeting this time allowed us to notice Songdo for the first time. It is designed to be a business hub of the northeast; its architectural intentions caught our fancy. It is fashionable to be "green" in our time, but to design one incorporating innovations in the greening of the planet is something else.

Of the fifteen-hundred-acre property, a hundred of it is a Central Park of smog-resistant refuge and relaxation. There's the *Convensia* without columns to hold the roof over its convention center, the nation's largest. An ambitious Incheon Art Center complex houses a concert hall, an opera house, an Asian contemporary museum of art, a design school, an artists' residence, a music conservatory, and a library. It is an upscale community designed as a business center and bedroom for the globally mobile and transient clientele that migrate from one global city to another.

Offerings include public and private education institutions with state-of-the art learning environments from K to 12 incorporating international perspectives in preparation for post-secondary schooling elsewhere. Like a resort, 228 acres is designated for a golf course surrounded by luxury villas and condominiums, accompanied by a fitness center. Designs for healthcare facilities include a hospital that boasts the latest in medical diagnosis and treatment technologies partnering with digitized database companies.

We mentioned skepticism at the start because free market economies might have increased the wealth of Suzhou and Shenzhen but it entailed massive physical, social, and psychological dislocations. Planned neighborhoods for political reasons do not fare well as self-sustaining entities, e.g., Brazil's Brasilia, OZ' Canberra, Nigeria's Abuja, Kazakhstan Aqmola and Myanmar's Naypyidaw, to name recent ones. If Songbo keeps the profit motive on the innovative technologies subservient to the human factor, it shall be OK in our book.

One need not be too accommodating, though. Korean Air does not serve *kimchee* with its *bulgoggi* on board its flights for the simple reason that the pungent aroma of the fermented vegetable overrides the scent of Chanel 5 several notches over in the old olfaction measure. Never mind that every other lady we encounter exudes the exotic aroma. The same held true at the hotel that hosted us in Songbo. The 6th floor buffet for guests had kimchee all right, but it was a watered down version, presumably for the non-Korean palate.

We shan't dither too long on this minor innovation since we can always walk down the store or the market for the genuine deal but as more urban centers globalize toward Western patterns, we push for the corresponding glocalization that honors real folkways at the ground level.

Books and reading can greatly improve children's future

By LEWIS W. DIUGUID
The Kansas City Star

Lewis W. Diuguid is a member of The Kansas City Star*'s Editorial Board. Readers may write to him at:* Kansas City Star, *1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at Ldiuguid@kcstar.com.*

When most of the people on the Norwegian ship *Sky* partied, swam or ate at endless buffets, I settled in at the ship's library to do some reading.

The cruise earlier this year from Miami to three ports in the Bahamas was packed with activities and fun, but the nerd in me sought a quiet place to study and write. I wasn't the only person seeking refuge. Not long after I sat down at a library table to read, two African-American boys entered to check out the library. They were brothers ages 12 and 8.

They were dressed alike and had short haircuts. The older boy wore horn-rim glasses like my brothers and I wore when we were that age.

These kids looked as nerdy as my brothers and I did. As it was for us and our children, any library was always an inviting, safe place.

I looked up when one of the boys said to the other, "There are a lot more books here than I thought there'd be."

The other brother responded, "Yes, but not as many books as Dad has."

That got my attention so I said hello and started to ask them questions. They were very smart kids. The older boy was in seventh grade. His brother was a third-grader.

It seemed incredibly cool to be speaking to a younger generation of African-Americans who were like me more than a thousand miles from home and aboard a multistory ship with thousands of multicultural, multinational passengers and crew. But as excited as I was to learn more about them, they were appropriately wary about me.

The older boy quickly asked why I was asking so many questions. He also responded that he would have to talk with his dad before he or his brother could say more.

They were clever kids with the right "stranger danger" concerns. I would've wanted my daughters to be as apprehensive.

I dug into my wallet and gave the oldest boy one of my business cards, showing that as a journalist I ask questions for a living. What intrigued me about the boys was knowing they were being raised by parents who had a library of books, and they demonstrated a great value for reading and education.

Talking to the boys made me recall the "Horatio Alger Exercise" used often in diversity training to help people understand that books and reading can greatly improve one's future. But the pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps notion is affected by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, and whether one's parents are poor, middle- or upper-class.

Participants in the Horatio Alger Exercise line up shoulder-to-shoulder and take a step forward or backward in response to the trainer's questions. They include:

If your ancestors ever learned that because of your race, skin color or ethnicity you were ugly or inferior, take one step back. If you turn on the television or open the front page of the paper and see people of your ethnicity or sexual orientation widely represented, please take one step forward.

If you have ever been called bad names because of your race, ethnicity, gender or skin color, take one step back. All those who went to school where the majority of teachers were of your race or ethnicity, take one step forward.

If you were ever told you must dress or act in a proper way because it reflected on your whole racial or ethnic group, take one step back. If as a child, your parents kept more than 40 books in your home, take one step forward.

All those who have a parent who completed college, take one step forward. All those who were raised in a rented apartment or house, take one step back.

The boys reminded me of the privileges parents afford children. We then pass on the advantages to our kids. The boys' father joined them in the library.

I shook his hand, learned that he was a college-educated professional on vacation with his extended-family from Florida. I praised his sons and wished the family well, saying they helped make my vacation richer and more memorable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A little sacrifice

I read with great interest an article published in the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* on Oct. 16, 2013, regarding the presentation given by Lupe Borja Robinson. The article touched on few points that prompted me to write my personal views. I admire Lupe for her ability to look into the past and find a "…need to re-examine the Covenant and determine to what extent the U.S. military has sovereignty in the Northern Marianas."

I am not disputing her statement that we need to re-examine the Covenant. Section 902 of the Covenant provides for consultation between the two governments not less frequently than once every 10 years.

We must, however, be mindful of the true and urgent need of the U.S. military to find a suitable area in the vicinity for our "men and women in uniform" to be trained and be ready to defend us at home and most importantly, they return home alive and unharmed.

During the May 2013 general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Col. Lawrence S. Loch, USMC, officer-in-charge of the Marine Corps Activity in Guam, presented their plan to use Pagan Island as a possible venue to train our "fighting forces." Colonel Loch mentioned that an Environmental Impact Study is ongoing to help determine if Pagan is suitable for their respective purposes. I understand that the EIS should be completed within the next few months. Once it is done, the military will then decide if they want to move forward on Pagan.

Assuming that Pagan Island is chosen as the venue to train the military forces, I would wholeheartedly support the decision and I ask everyone in the CNMI to support it as well. Having lived through WWII, more specifically the invasion of Saipan, I could not do enough to those that gave their lives so that I may live. I even joined the Second Marine Division Association as a lifetime associate member to show members of the Armed Forces that I could not do enough to express my profound "thank you," especially to Sgt. John Sullivan, Sgt. George Prevost, and Sgt. Gene Engel who risked their lives to save our family members and others from the ruins of war in 1944.

We must do all we can to minimize the use of the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi. Of course we cannot ensure that everyone trained in Pagan will come back alive, but those of us on Saipan must do all we can to be sure that our military personnel are fully trained before they are deployed.

The island of Pagan will always be there. Land is virtually indestructible. The census taken in 2010 shows that there are only six people living on Pagan. Please allow the military to use Pagan Island as a training ground for our men and women in uniform. I am sure our own family members will make use of the training ground also. A little sacrifice will not hurt us or our economy.

David M. Sablan Sr.
Papago, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northwest winds around 10 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

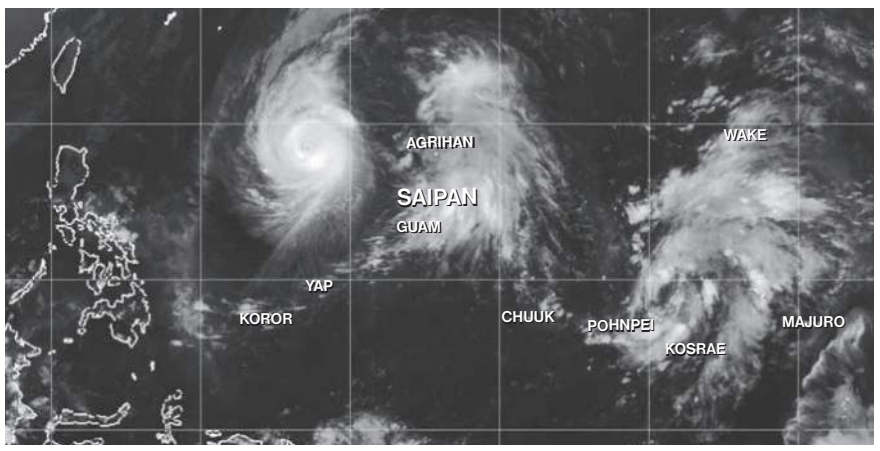
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼43
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
London	Rain	▲61	▼60
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲63	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼75
New York	Sunny	▲64	▼45
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼58
Pusan	Windy	▲72	▼58
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲70	▼41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲70	▼50
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼63
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲65	▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Francisco (26W) is centered 575 miles northwest of Guam near 18N137E with maximum sustained winds of 160 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms are found near the center between 16N and 20N from 136E to 139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen northeast and east of the center within 45 miles of a line from 21N139E to 17N141E. For more information on Francisco, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. Tropical depression 27W is centered 300 miles north-northeast of Agrihan near 23N147E with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are occurring near the center between 21N and 24N from 145E to 149E. Converging south winds streaming toward 27W are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Saipan and Tinian but east of Rota and Guam between 13N and 19N from 146E to 151E. Similar conditions are also present farther east within 50 miles of a line from 22N151E to 11N154E. For more information on 27W, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A surface trough reaches northward from a developing tropical disturbance centered southwest of Enewetak atoll near 10N163E to near Wake Island at 20N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are evident near the disturbance and trough between 10N and 17N from 161E to 171E. Isolated thunderstorms are flaring up over Wake Island within 65 miles of a line from 21N166E to 17N170E. Converging west to south winds feeding toward the disturbance are creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei within 90 miles of a line from 10N163E to 6N158E and also east of Kosrae but near Kwajalein within 75 miles of a line from 9N167E to 4N165E. This disturbance is the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN22 PGTW. An upper-level low centered east of Minami Tori Shima is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 70 miles of 25N164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:32 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:36 PM	7:51 AM
Tuesday	8:24 PM	8:42 AM
Wednesday	9:13 PM	9:33 AM
Thursday	10:01 PM	10:21 AM
Friday	10:50 PM	11:08 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:10pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:55am	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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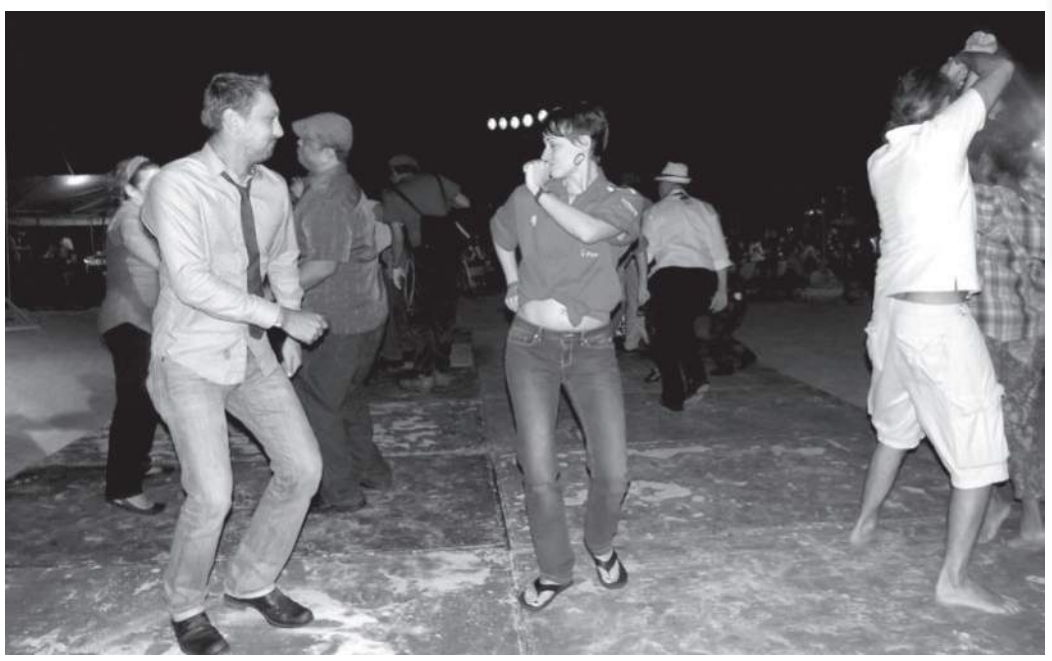
25th American Red Cross Club 200

Photos by THOMAS MANGLONA II

Gov. Eloy Inos and guests enjoy dinner at the Club 200.

Trey Don and Aman Allen pose in their Mario and Luigi plumbers outfit at the 2013 Club 200 held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Jean Sablan delivers her brief remarks after receiving recognition and an award for over 22 years of service to the ARC.



Audience members dance to old-school and modern hip hop songs during Saturday's Club 200.

Hundreds of people gather for dinner at the beach side of Fiesta Resort and Spa.

Volunteer students pose for a photo.

Spanish bagpipe musician Yuki Kojima was one of the featured performers at the Club 200.

Tina Dela Cruz smiles while holding her $15,000 check.

28th Japanese Autumn Festival draws hundreds

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Japanese food, games, art, sports, and dance were all celebrated last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas by hundreds of community members and Japanese citizens.

Saturday's event commenced with the 99th annual peace ceremony of the Katori Jingu Shrine at the Sugar King Park, where local leaders and Japanese officials were joined by High Priest Rev. Shoji Takahashi.

"I attend this event every year to value to friendship between Japan and the CNMI," Takahashi told reporters.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of the rebuilding of the Katori Jingu shrine and the founding anniversary of the Japanese Society of the NMI, a non-profit organization.

"Every year we have this event to gather tourist, locals, and other nationalities. This is our most important and biggest event of the year," said Japanese Society of NMI vice chair Yoichi Matsumura.

Matsumura shared that some Japanese cultural dance groups could not make it to this year's event due to a storm currently hitting Japan.

Matsumura added that the Saipan community can look forward to the 100th anniversary of the Katori Jingu Shrine next year, as the organization will be sending a hundred-person delegation to join the celebration and peace ceremony.

Saturday's five-hour event drew many members of the community, like Redie Dela Cruz. "We came because they always have good food. We always look forward to buying the food," she said.

Dela Cruz has attended the Japanese festival for the past seven years and, although the food is her favorite part, "it is important to celebrate the Japanese culture and give this kind of exposure to my children."

The night featured many food vendors such as Kinpachi, Himawari, and Furusato.

"Every year we make Japanese food and serve it because there are a lot of tourists and Japanese on island," said Furusato employee Julie Arilliano. "I find it personally important to come here every year and serve everyone."

Sean Nishii, a volunteer to the autumn festival for the past three years, said that "events like these help educate locals and tourists [about the] Japanese culture."

"We must not forget our culture and I am glad that many people came out here today to celebrate it."

The autumn festival is an event that marks the annual celebration of harvest rituals in Japan.

The People's Republic of China listed the festival as an "intangible cultural heritage" in 2006, and it was made a Chinese public holiday in 2008. It is also a public holiday in Taiwan. Among the Vietnamese, it is considered the second most important holiday tradition. The day following Mid-Autumn Festival is a public holiday in Hong Kong and Macau.

Children enjoy games at the Japanese Autumn Festival.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Locals gather around the Furusato reastaurant booth set up at the Paseo De Marianas last Saturday.

A Kinpachi chef poses for a photo while grilling some sweet corn.

High Priest Rev. Takahashi, seen at right, enjoys performances at the 28th annual Japanese Autumn Festival.

Japanese girls pose for a photo dressed in the traditional Japanese kimono.

Lights light up the stage at the Paseo de Marianas for the 28th Japanese Autumn Festival.

Chefs grill seafood for hungry customers.

Festival volunteers hold up this year's Japanese Autumn festival t-shirts.

IN DECLINING SUGGESTION TO RECUSE

Judge says she has no personal bias vs Woodruff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has stated that she has no personal prejudice against attorney Stephen C. Woodruff and that her husband, CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona, has no substantial interest in the outcome of Woodruff's disciplinary matter.

In an order declining Woodruff's suggestion for her to recuse, Judge Manglona also pointed out that the totality of the facts does not give rise to an appearance of partiality.

Woodruff renewed his suggestion for Judge Manglona to recuse at a hearing last week on the judge's show-cause order that directed the lawyer to explain why he should not be held in civil contempt for not filing his reports relating to the progress of his disciplinary matter in CNMI courts.

Judge Manglona proceeded with the hearing and later excused Woodruff's late filing of his reports.

On the recusal issue, Woodruff has given notice that he is appealing his Superior Court disbarment to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Pending the outcome of that appeal, Judge Manglona suspended action whether to apply the same disbarment order against Woodruff in federal court.

In her order declining recusal, Judge Manglona said if the CNMI Supreme Court affirms Woodruff's disbarment, or reverses it and imposes other discipline short of disbarment, the district court will have to decide whether to impose reciprocal discipline.

If the case comes before her again, Judge Manglona said she will reconsider whether it is still proper for her to stay on the case in light of any new facts developed in the course of the appeal.

Woodruff cited Judge Manglona's order in the lawsuit against the federalization law, in which she dismissed the case, characterizing the amended complaint as an "unanswerable mess." Woodruff handled that case.

According to Woodruff, the Commonwealth prosecutor repeatedly referred to this order in an attempt to improperly influence Judge Manglona's husband, Justice Manglona, in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Judge Manglona pointed out that the negative opinion of Woodruff's performance in that lawsuit was formed on the basis of facts and events within the proceedings and does not display a personal, deep-seated antagonism toward the lawyer.

Judge Manglona also pointed out that her husband does not have a substantial interest in the outcome of Woodruff's case and has no financial interest in it whatsoever.

Manglona

Woodruff

"Any intangible interest in whether the district court imposes reciprocal discipline is extremely remote and speculative," she said.

Unlike in a direct appeal, Judge Manglona said, the outcome of the district court's reciprocal-discipline procedure will have no effect on the rulings of the Commonwealth courts.

Judge Manglona said that only the U.S. Supreme Court has subject matter jurisdiction to review a state court's attorney disciplinary orders.

Woodruff had suggested that Judge Manglona should disqualify herself because of an appearance of partiality arising from her husband's participation in the Commonwealth disciplinary case.

Judge Manglona said her husband was one of three justices charged with determining whether to impose an interim suspension on Woodruff pending the resolution of ethical complaints against him.

Judge Manglona said it is likely that Justice Manglona will be among the justices who will hear Woodruff's appeal of the disbarment order.

Judge Manglona said the interim order, which was authored by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, was in the nature of a preliminary injunction.

The CNMI Supreme Court, she said, did not find Woodruff of having committed ethical violations, but determined only that there was a substantial likelihood such violations would be proved.

Meanwhile, in a separate order, Judge Manglona warned Woodruff that any further disobedience or resistance to the court's order may subject him to prosecution for criminal contempt, as well as be subject to disciplinary action.

WCPFC: Fishermen concerned about expansion of closure around Farallon

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council has issued a reminder to the Department of Defense and Joint Region Marianas of the concerns that fishermen have over the expansion of the closure around Farallon de Medinilla testing range, which is a prime bottomfishing area.

WCPFC decided that its staff will review the current CNMI bottomfish fishery and its existing management regime and develop an options paper for Council consideration that would remove the large vessel area closure for bottomfish in the southern portion of the archipelago.

WCPFC concluded a four-day meeting in Honolulu Friday. It was established by Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Pacific remote island areas. It serves as a bridge between the local communities, fishermen, and the federal government.

At their meeting, the Council also expressed concern about the military's plans for the expansion of activities around the islands of Tinian and Pagan, which may hurt fishing in those areas as well.

They agreed to also remind NOAA's Assistant Administrator for Fisheries that, regarding the Billfish Conservation Act, the intent of Congress was to maintain the ability of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI fisheries to send billfish to the U.S. mainland for sale as well as allow billfish landed in American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI by foreign vessels to be sold in Hawaii. And the U.S. Coast Guard is also being asked by the council to prioritize patrols of the U.S. exclusive economic zone to detect foreign fishing violations and acquire or direct additional patrol assets for the Western Pacific Region.

The Council also decided to form a Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee to be composed of the heads of the Council, the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans, and NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, as well as a representative from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The NMFS will also be notified of the Council's concurrence with the positive 90-day finding in response to the petition to delist the North Pacific humpback whale population under the Endangered Species Act.

The Council reiterated its previous recommendation to recognize the recovery and delist the North Pacific humpback whales and looks forward to a timely 12-month finding from NMFS.

CHCC officers, directors complete leadership training

Five corporate health officers and directors of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recently completed a "Leadership and Management Training" course facilitated by the CNMI Area Health Education Center through the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute.

The five training participants were the second group from CHCC to complete the two-day training course, which was designed to sharpen the skills of those in management to help them better understand and better communicate with the people they work with and supervise.

This course is designed to help both new and more experienced managers learn new tips and hone their skills. Topics that were covered include the different types of communication strategies, dealing with issues in the workplace, and maintaining work motivation and momentum. The course was taught by NMC Business Department chairperson and instructor Chavel Green.

At the end of the training, the five CHCC corporate health officers and directors received certificates of completion from NMC's Community Development Institute. The five training participants serve at CHCC's facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

"We know that effective leadership in health care can improve the quality of services being offered, as well as the overall healthcare experience," said acting director Floyd Masga. "That is why we are glad to support CHCC's officers and directors who serve our islands by facilitating this leadership training."

For more information about NMC's Community Development Institute, contact the CDI Office at 237-6808/6809/6810 or email AHEC program coordinator Orrin Pharmin at orrin.pharmin@marianas.edu, or CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong at les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC

The CNMI Area Health Education Center through the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently awarded certificates to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. corporate health officers and directors for completing the "Leadership and Management Training" course offered through CDI. In this photo are Orrin Pharmin, AHEC program coordinator, far left, and NMC Business Department chair Chavel Green, third from right.

Call-a-Ride Saipan resumes normal operations

The Call-a-Ride Saipan services will resume its normal operating hours effective today, Oct. 21, 2013.

CARS normal operating hours are as follows:

- Mondays to Fridays: 6am to 9pm
- Saturdays: 8am to 5pm
- Sundays and holidays: Closed

"The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority and the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board wish to thank our riders of CARS and the general public for their understanding and patience throughout the reduced hours of operations due to the federal government shutdown. Now that the shutdown is over, COTA and CPTAB are pleased to operate CARS back to normal schedule," according to Thomas J. Camacho, Special Assistant for Public Transportation and Chairman, Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board.

For more information, call CARS at 664-2276 or email at cota@gov.mp. ***(COTA)***

Chasing a dream

By PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS TARA MOLLE
U.S. COAST GUARD

U.S. COAST GUARD/PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS TARA MOLLE

Lt. j.g. Matthew Chase scans the sky in a Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane July 31, 2013. Chase graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 2011 and subsequently fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a Hercules pilot.

U.S. COAST GUARD/PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS TARA MOLLE

Lt. j.g. Matthew Chase is shown in front of an HC-130 Hercules airplane at Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in O'ahu, Hawaii, July 31, 2013.

What did you want to be when you were a kid? For children, dreams and ideas for their adult profession can stretch beyond imagination. As those children continue to grow, sometimes those dreams and ideas change and they end up following other life paths.

From as young as 3 years old, Lt. j.g. Matthew Chase knew exactly what he wanted to be when he grew up. Cliché as it sounds, one could say it was his destiny. Chase wanted to be a pilot, but not just any pilot. He wanted to be a Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane pilot.

"I was that one kid who always wanted to be a pilot," said Chase flashing a wide grin. "All I ever wanted to do was fly C-130s. A lot of kids would be like, 'Oh it would be nice to fly one day,' and my dad would say, 'Son, if you want to do something and you want to do it well, you have to make it your life. Live it.' So from that point on, that was it for me."

That dream would be nurtured by his father Kim Chase, a 23-year retired Coast Guard warrant officer who had a love and passion for the Coast Guard and aviation. That passion seemed to pass directly onto his son. His father's love of aviation wasn't the only thing Chase embraced. He learned from his father at a young age that if was going to get anywhere in life, especially aspiring to be a Coast Guard pilot, it was going to be through hard work and dedication.

"My dad was a huge fan of aviation," said Chase. "When I was 12 or 13 I remember telling my dad, 'I'm going to be a pilot' and he would say, 'Well, you shouldn't just be playing video games you should learn what the pilots do…' So he would bring home instrument approach plates we use in the field and say 'Let's learn this!,' he said chuckling as if he was reminiscing with his dad about childhood memories.

His dad even bought Chase a C-130 model airplane for them to build together. Unfortunately, that model airplane still sits unbuilt in the box at Chase's mothers house in Baltimore. Kim Chase passed away from cancer in 2005.

"It seemed like it happened so fast," said Chase. "One day he couldn't come to one of my lacrosse games because he wasn't feeling well. He went to the doctor and two days later found out he had cancer with only six months left to live."

Chase explained the short amount of time left was spent soaking up as much knowledge and life lessons from his father as he could before he passed.

"The day he died I got up and went to school because he always told me, you don't miss school," Chase explained. "After that, I just had to continue to push forward. That's what he would have wanted. Flying was the only thing that kept me going."

Kim would never get to see his son be accepted into the Coast Guard Academy in 2007 and be sent directly to flight school for two years after his graduation in 2011.

"When my dad made warrant, especially coming up through he enlisted ranks as a storekeeper, it gave me a great perspective because he took becoming an officer as a huge deal," said Chase. "He never stopped telling me the importance of what that meant."

Being sent to flight school immediately after graduation would prove to be a big accomplishment for Chase since only eight to 10 percent make it into flight school immediately after they graduate. It would have been something Kim would have been extremely proud of.

Another person who was for Chase's success was his mother Carroll. Upon graduation, she proudly pinned shiny gold pilot wings onto her son's uniform. This would mark the proverbial door closing and window opening in their lives.

"I always joke that my mother has been in the Coast Guard longer than me," said Chase smiling proudly. "She and I are so close and she's always been there through it all."

Now it was time to put all those years of studying, hard work and practice to use in the field. For Chase, the field would be sunny, weather hovering around upper eighties most of the time, deep crystal blue water as far as the eye could see… paradise. His first duty station would be as a C-130 Hercules pilot at Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point on Oahu, Hawaii. His childhood dream had finally come to fruition.

Surreal is the only word Chase can muster when he describes his journey and new destination. He reported to the air station in April 2013.

"When I finally arrived here I said, man this is actually happening," said Chase not being able to hold back a smile. "I'm sure people would kill for this!"

The success and new destination have not gone to his head. If anything, Chase explains that he's humbled daily by the mission and his fellow crewmembers.

On one of his initial area familiarization flights, Chase and his fellow crewmembers were diverted to search for an Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon 500 miles offshore. While the mission turned out to be a false alert, it provided Chase with valuable field experience. As a new pilot, Chase is provided instruction and mentorship by his more seasoned crewmembers.

"I can't imagine what it's like having to teach a new pilot while you're monitoring a million other things while flying," said Chase of his crew. "From my perspective, it's a very impressive job because those guys and girls are not only responsible for maintaining the safety of the aircraft but teaching us at the same time."

Chase explained how the learning is never ending and that his primary job is to learn how to be safer and to fly the aircraft.

"I'm always reading the manuals, always reading the systems and different things," said Chase. "But the amount of knowledge combined in the aircraft is amazing," he added proudly as though he was speaking of close friends. "It's a lot of stuff you can't learn in a book. These are the kinds of people you want to fly with."

Why C-130's, one might ask. What is it about flying a cargo plane that has him so mesmerized? To Chase the answer is very simple.

"The size and the power of the Herc fascinated me," he said. "I remember seeing it for the first time when I was a kid and just being blown away. I love the bigger aircraft, bigger crew and especially the traveling. Having coffee on board doesn't hurt either," he added through a slightly mischievous grin.

Now having been stationed at Barbers Point for almost six months, Chase is finally getting settled into the Coast Guard and aviation life.

"I set a goal that I could meet relatively early in life," he said. "I got winged at almost 24-years-old. Now my goal is to just be a better officer, better pilot, better husband and just overall better in life."

Chase elaborated on how it's is hardly ever categorized as work, especially while being stationed in Hawaii.

"The Coast Guard is so great because even when you get into the daily grind, you still love and appreciate what you do."

Now at 24 years old, and having achieved his lifelong dream, Chase has the rest of his life to soak up the every day blessings he worked so hard to obtain. But Chase never forgets how it all started and who he truly owes his successes to.

"Everything now is just to carry out my dad's memory and legacy," said Chase fighting back a few tears. "I can't imagine doing anything else in life. Every now and then when I walk back into the hanger after a flight I look back at the Herc and say, 'How about that dad? How about that.'"

THE CHASE FAMILY

Lt. j.g. Matthew Chase, shown at his baptism at the Coast Guard Academy chapel with his mother, Carroll, father, Kim, and grandparents in 1989. Chase progressed on to graduate from the Coast Guard Academy in 2011 and subsequently fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a Hercules pilot.

Business

AP sources: A total of 476,000 Obamacare applications filed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Administration officials say about 476,000 health insurance applications have been filed through federal and state exchanges, the most detailed measure yet of the problem-plagued rollout of President Barack Obama's signature legislation.

Obama

However, the officials continue to refuse to say how many people have actually enrolled in the insurance markets. Without enrollment figures, it's unclear whether the program is on track to reach the 7 million people projecting by the Congressional Budget Office to gain coverage during the six-month sign-up period.

Obama's advisers say the president has been frustrated by the flawed rollout. During one of his daily health care briefings last week, he told advisers assembled in the Oval Office that the administration had to own up to the fact that there were no excuses for not having the website ready to operate as promised.

The president is expected to address the problems on Monday during a health care event at the White House. Cabinet members and other top administration officials will also be traveling around the country in the coming weeks to encourage sign-ups in areas with the highest population of uninsured people.

The first three weeks of sign-ups have been marred by a cascade of computer problems, which the administration says it is working around the clock to correct. The rough rollout has been a glaring embarrassment for Obama, who invested significant time and political capital in getting the law passed during his first term.

The officials said technology experts from inside and outside the government are set to work on the glitches, though they did not say how many workers were being added.

Officials did say staffing has been increased at call centers by about 50 percent. As problems persist on the federally run website, the administration is encouraging more people to sign up for insurance over the phone.

The officials did not want to be cited by name and would not discuss the health insurance rollout unless they were granted anonymity.

Despite the widespread problems, the Obama administration has yet to fully explain what went wrong with the online system consumers were supposed to use to sign up for coverage.

Initially, administration officials blamed a high volume of interest for the frozen screens that many people encountered. Since then, the administration has also acknowledged unspecified problems with software and some elements of the system's design.

Interest in the insurance markets appears to continue to be high. Officials said about 19 million people had visited HealthCare.gov as of Friday night.

People seeking insurance must fill out applications before selecting specific plans. The applications include personal information, including income figures that are used to calculate any subsidies the applicant may qualify for.

More than one person can be included on an application.

Of the 476,000 applications that have been started, just over half have been from the 36 states where the federal government is taking the lead in running the markets. The rest of the applications have come from the 14 states running their own markets, along with Washington, D.C.

The White House says it plans to release the first enrollment totals from both the federal and state-run markets in mid-November.

An internal memo obtained by The Associated Press showed that the administration projected nearly a half-million people would enroll for the insurance markets during the first month.

Officials say they expect enrollments to be heavier toward the end of the six-month sign-up window.

In an ironic twist, the problems with the rollout were overshadowed by Republican efforts to get changes to the health care law in exchange for funding the government. That effort failed and the government reopened last week with the health care law intact.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

S&P 500 pushes further into record territory

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors shifted their focus from politics to profits on Friday and liked what they saw, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index further into record territory. Two days after Congress struck a last-minute deal to keep the U.S. from a devastating default on its debt, investors were bidding up stocks on surprisingly good profits from companies in industries both old and new. General Electric and Morgan Stanley rose after reporting higher earnings than financial analysts had expected. Google surged nearly 14 percent, topping $1,000 a share for the first time. "We've moved from the dysfunction of Washington to the reality of the global economy, and it looks pretty good," said Ron Florance, deputy chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank. Investors were also encouraged by a rebound in Chinese economic growth in the latest quarter.

Google stock crosses $1,000 mark after earnings

NEW YORK (AP)—Google's stock surpassed the $1,000 mark for the first time, helped by strong third-quarter results. Shortly after the markets opened Friday, Google Inc. shares jumped 14 percent to $1,015.46 and closed a day heavy trading at $1,011.41. The gains marked Google's biggest one-day jump in more than five years. The stock had never been higher than $928 in regular market trading since Google went public at $85 per share nine years ago. Late Thursday, Google reported a 36 percent jump in third-quarter net income that beat Wall Street's predictions. The numbers showed that while the company's average ad prices continue to decline, they're being offset by a larger number of people clicking on ads.

British judge clears Madoff sons of wrongdoing

LONDON (AP)—A British judge has cleared Bernard Madoff's sons of wrongdoing in a case brought against them by the liquidator of his estate in Britain, saying in a written ruling that the pair's honesty was not in doubt. Judge Andrew Popplewell said Friday that the brothers, Mark and Andrew, were among several U.K. directors of Bernard Madoff's London-based securities firm whose reputations had been tainted by association with the elder Madoff's multi-billion-dollar fraud. In dismissing the civil case against them all, the judge delivered a glowing endorsement of their character. "Their honesty and integrity has been vindicated," he said. Mark and Andrew Madoff long played a lead role in the drama surrounding their disgraced financier father. They first alerted authorities in 2008 after the elder Madoff confessed that his highly regarded investment business was nothing more than a Ponzi scheme.

Nation

Two convicted killers are taken into custody in Fla.

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP)—With two convicted killers back in police custody, authorities have shifted attention to finding out who made the phony court documents that led to the mistaken inmate releases that rocked Florida's judicial system.

Lillie Danzy, mother of escaped inmate Charles Walker, makes a plea for her son to turn himself in to authorities during a news conference at the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Orlando, Fla., Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013.

Joseph Jenkins and Charles Walker, both 34, were captured Saturday night without incident at the Coconut Grove Motor Inn in Panama City Beach, a touristy area of putt-putt courses and go-kart tracks. Hours earlier, their families had held a news conference in Orlando—some 300 miles away—urging them to surrender.

"Now that we have them in custody, we're hoping to get something from the interviews with them," Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey said. "We seized printers from the prisons, now we're going to be able to throw a lot of resources at this part of the investigation. We're already working it."

A woman who answered the phone at the motel said she saw police coming and they went into room 227. After authorities left, the parking lot of the two-story motel next to Big Willy's Swimwear was mostly empty. Authorities think the men had been in the area since Wednesday.

Jenkins and Walker were both serving life sentences at the Franklin Correctional Facility in the Panhandle before they walked free without anyone realizing the paperwork, complete with case numbers and a judge's forged signature, was bogus. The documents seemingly reduced their life sentences to 15 years.

Jenkins was released first on Sept. 27. His uncle and father figure, Henry Pearson, said when prison officials called him in Orlando he jumped in the car with fresh clothes for Jenkins and picked him up from prison.

He drove him to see his mother and grandmother. Jenkins hung around Pearson's home for some days and registered as a felon Sept. 30 at an Orlando jail, as he was required by law. He filled out paperwork, had his photograph taken and his fingerprints were checked against a database to make sure he didn't have any outstanding warrants for his arrest.

The Orange County jail official who interacted with him had no idea he was supposed to be locked up, Sheriff Jerry Demings said.

Pearson planned a birthday party for Jenkins on Oct. 1, but he didn't show. Pearson thought little of it because Jenkins had friends in the area, and after all, he had been locked up since the 1998 killing and botched robbery of Roscoe Pugh, an Orlando man.

About a week later, on Oct. 8, Walker was let out of the same prison when similar legitimate-looking documents duped prison officials. His mother, Lillie Danzy, said the family thought their prayers had been answered when she got a call saying her son was being released. She called prison officials back to make sure it was actually happening.

There wasn't time to pick him up, so prison officials took him to a bus station, gave him a ticket—as they would any other ex-inmate—and sent him along.

NJ gay couples in final hours of wedding planning

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Several gay couples in New Jersey are expected to gather late Sunday to wed in ceremonies to be held shortly after midnight.

The last-minute weddings were planned after the state Supreme Court last week refused to delay a lower court order for the state to begin recognizing same-sex marriages at 12:01 a.m. Monday.

Gov. Chris Christie's administration has a pending appeal, but justices said they would not hold up marriages while they consider it. The justices said they did not think the state's arguments were likely to prevail and that delaying the lower court's order would hurt couples who would not become eligible for certain federal benefits until they could legally marry in New Jersey.

Newark Mayor Cory Booker and Lambertville Mayor David DelVecchio both plan to lead ceremonies for gay couples at 12:01 a.m. Monday.

Hoboken, Collingswood and a handful of other towns opened municipal offices Saturday to accept applications for marriage licenses from same-sex couples.

Activists still were working Saturday to line up judges who could waive the three-day waiting period for same-sex couples who want to exchange vows first thing Monday. Under state law, couples normally must wait 72 hours after applying for a marriage license before they can tie the knot.

Garden State Equality executive director Troy Stevenson said the effort to get couples hitched without the waiting period was a "work in progress." He didn't have specific details on how many judges were available to consider couples' waivers during the weekend, but he said many marriages will be held across the state at 12:01 a.m. Monday.

Officials noted that state law says couples married legally elsewhere can wed in New Jersey without a waiting period - a provision that appears to apply to many New Jersey couples.

Many same-sex couples began scrambling to plan their weddings shortly after the state Supreme Court issued its unexpected decision Friday. They reached out to florists, photographers, catering firms, banquet halls and other wedding-related businesses to see what was available on short notice.

Justin Jordan, a photographer who shoots many weddings in southern New Jersey, said he's heard from "numerous couples" since Friday.

"Many people have been waiting anxiously for the chance to get married, and now that they have the chance to do it, they're jumping at the opportunity," Jordan said. "But they're also realizing everything that goes with a wedding, like getting a photographer or video person, buying flowers, arranging for food ... it's a daunting task when you have months to plan, let alone a few days."

Among those seeking their licenses Saturday morning were Hoboken residents Paul Somerville and Allen Kratz, who have been together since 1985. They were previously married in Oregon in 2004, only to have the union nullified by the state's supreme court.

Asia

Filipino sultan who claimed Malaysian region dies at 75

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine sultan, whose armed followers invaded a vast Malaysian region and sparked a security crisis in February that left dozens dead, has died of multiple organ failure. He was 75.

Fatima Celia, the wife of Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, told The Associated Press that her husband died in her arms early Sunday at a Philippine hospital, adding that before he died he ordered his family and followers to keep alive the historic territorial claims to Sabah state in neighboring Malaysia.

Although largely forgotten and dismissed as a vestige from a bygone era, Kiram's Muslim sultanate, based in the southern Philippine province of Sulu, stirred up a security crisis in Malaysia when his younger brother and about 200 followers, dozens of them armed, barged into Sabah's coastal village of Lahad Datu.

Kiram III

Stunned, Malaysia responded by sending in ground troops and launching air strikes. Dozens were killed in weeks of sporadic fighting before the standoff eased.

Malaysia has governed the resource-rich frontier region of timberlands and palm oil plantations in northern Borneo as its second-largest federal state since the 1960s.

The Kiram sultanate, which emerged in the 1400s, built a legend for its wide influence at the time and its feared Tausug warriors. Chinese and European leaders once sent vassals to pay homage to their powerful forebears, sultanate spokesman Abraham Idjirani said. The Sulu sultanate preceded both the Philippine republic and Malaysia by centuries.

But overrun by history, the Kirams now carry royal titles and nothing much else.

"I'm the poorest sultan in the world," an ailing Kiram said in an interview in March at his rundown residence in a Muslim village in the Philippine capital.

The Kirams claim Sabah has belonged to their sultanate for centuries and was only leased to Malaysia, which they say pays them a paltry annual rent. Malaysian officials contend the payments are part of an arrangement under which the sultanate has ceded the 74,000 square kilometers (28,000 square miles) of Sabah territory to their country.

20 killed, 44 injured in PH road accident

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A truck carrying hog feed smashed into the rear of a passenger bus on a remote downhill provincial road in the northern Philippines early Saturday, setting off a series of wrecks that left at least 20 people dead and injured 44 others, police said.

The bus driver lost control of his vehicle after the first collision and hit two buses and four vans coming from the opposite direction before toppling over on the narrow downhill road in Quezon province on Luzon island, about 115 kilometers (72 miles) southeast of Manila, Atimonan town police chief Jonar Yupio said. Parts of the bus pinned many of the victims, and others were killed by flying metal debris, including the engine.

AP

Workers sift through the wreckage of a passenger bus after getting involved in a seven-vehicle pile up along the highway at Atimonan township, Quezon province, about 115 kilometers (72 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines Saturday Oct. 19, 2013.

All those killed—including four children, the truck driver and his assistant—were in either the truck or the first bus that was hit.

Social workers said a 1-year-old girl was among the survivors. Rescuer Jun Panuil said he found the baby muddied and covered in blood from other victims on the side of the road near the bus. He said the blood had made rescuers suspect the child was seriously hurt, but she had only a few scratches.

Yupio said it was dark and raining when the accident occurred early Saturday morning, shortly past midnight.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death toll in India from toxic liquor rises to 42

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Another 10 people have died in hospitals after drinking toxic bootleg liquor in northern India, police said Sunday, raising the death toll to 42 in the past three days. Some 40 people are being treated in hospitals in Uttar Pradesh state, said District Magistrate Neena Sharma. Police arrested 32 people for illegally brewing and selling the toxic drink to the villagers, who were celebrating the Hindu "Dussehra" festival in Azamgarh district last week, Sharma said Sunday. The region is 300 kilometers (185 miles) southeast of Lucknow, the state capital.

Chinese man accused of killing wife, 6 relatives

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities have arrested a man suspected of fatally stabbing his pregnant wife and six of her relatives, including two elderly grandparents and two young nieces. Police in China's northwest autonomous region of Ningxia announced the arrest of 24-year-old Ma Yongdong late Friday night on its official microblog. State media said the suspect had quarreled Monday with his wife, Lan Xiaohong, who was six months pregnant. They said he found her later that day at her parents' home in a village in Pengyang county, and that he clashed with his in-laws before killing all seven victims with a knife.

Attacks in southern Thailand kill 5, injure 13

HAT YAI, Thailand (AP)—A spate of bombings and drive-by shootings Saturday in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south left five people dead and 13 injured, police said. The injured included eight soldiers and five journalists. In the day's first attack, a bomb went off on a road in Ra-ngae district in Narathiwat province, injuring six soldiers who were on foot patrol, said police Col. Jiradet Phrasawang. Three of the soldiers were in serious condition. The second bomb exploded an hour later about 100 meters (328 feet) from the first blast as a bomb squad and journalists were arriving at the scene, Jiradet said.

World

Belgian plane crash kills 11

BRUSSELS (AP)—A plane carrying parachutists planning to celebrate a birthday with a skydive crashed in Belgium on Saturday, killing all 11 people aboard.

Minutes after the aircraft took off from a small airfield near the city of Namur, witnesses saw part of a wing break off, sending the plane into a spiraling nosedive and crash in a field close to Fernelmont town, said its mayor, Jean-Claude Nihoul. The skydivers and their instructors "were not able to jump out," Nihoul said in a telephone interview.

"It has been a long time we have suffered a tragedy of such kind," said Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo, who traveled to the site of the accident.

The victims were almost all between the ages of 20 and 40, and many families lost a father, Nihoul said. "There were 11 on board, and the trip was a birthday present for one of them," he added.

Everyone aboard was killed and no one was hurt on the ground, Nihoul said, adding that three parachutes were found near the crash site. "Some were trying to get out but could not," he said.

The 11 victims were not immediately identified by name, and the cause of the accident was being investigated.

The Pilatus PC-6 Turbo Porter plane took off in partly cloudy conditions over the wooded and hilly area about 40 miles (60 kilometers) south of Brussels.

Nicolas Hormans of the Paraclub Namur, whose skydivers were among the victims, told RTL network that the plane was probably about 3 kilometers (2 miles) high when it suddenly went down. He said the nosedive would have thrown everyone aboard around with such force that they would not have been able to jump out and parachute to safety.

Such plane crashes in Belgium, a small country of 11 million people, are fairly rare.

King Phillipe was visiting the scene of the accident Saturday night with Prime Minister Di Rupo.

Turk, Lebanese hostages freed in swap

BEIRUT (AP)—Nine Lebanese pilgrims abducted in Syria and two Turkish pilots held hostage in Lebanon returned home Saturday night, part of an ambitious three-way deal cutting across the Syrian civil war.

Thousands of well-wishers greeted the Shiite pilgrims in Beirut, with one man being carried out of the airport on the shoulders of a crowd. Meanwhile, a plane carrying the two freed Turkish Airlines pilots landed in Istanbul, where Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other officials greeted them.

Their planes departed just minutes apart, crisscrossing in the skies as part of the carefully-calibrated plan. The hostage release ends an ordeal that began a year and a half ago when Syrian rebels kidnapped the pilgrims, triggering tit-for-tat kidnappings that included the two Turkish pilots.

The deal, negotiated by Qatar and Palestinian officials, also was meant to include freeing dozens of women held in Syrian government jails to satisfy the rebels who abducted the pilgrims. However, it wasn't immediately clear Saturday night whether any of the women had been freed. The Syrian government and its official SANA news agency did not mention any such release.

The nine Shiite pilgrims were kidnapped in May 2012 while on their way from Iran to Lebanon via Turkey and Syria. Turkish Airlines pilots Murat Akpinar and Murat Agca had been held since their kidnapping in August in Beirut.

Their abductions show how the chaos from the Syrian civil war, now in its third year, has spilled across the greater Middle East. The men also described facing similar despair and hardships while in captivity.

"For the first 15 days, we were kept in a room and didn't see the light of day," Akpinar said in a hastily organized news conference after landing in Istanbul. He said he and his colleague were guarded by dozens of gunmen. "It was impossible for us to escape," he said.

Titanic violin sells for over $1.6M at auction

LONDON (AP)—A violin believed to have been played on the Titanic before the doomed vessel sank was auctioned for more than 1 million pounds ($1.6 million) Saturday, a fantastic figure which one collector said may never be beaten.

The sea-corroded instrument, now unplayable, is thought to have belonged to bandmaster Wallace Hartley, who was among the disaster's more than 1,500 victims.

The story of Hartley's band, which stoically continued playing on the ship's deck until the disaster's final hour, is a memorable part of James Cameron's "Titanic," when Hartley and his colleagues are seen playing "Nearer, My God, To Thee" as the passengers around them scream and drown in the icy water.

The incredible story, and its heart-rending portrayal in one of the world's most popular films, likely played a role in pushing the instrument's price to 900,000 pounds, or past 1 million pounds when the buyer's premium and tax are taken into account.

"It's a world record for a Titanic artifact," said Peter Boyd-Smith, a Titanic memorabilia collector at the auction, hosted by Henry Aldridge and Son in the western England town of Devizes.

"The only other items that are probably worth that kind of money are the items salvaged from RMS Titanic if they are ever put up for sale and those are in the exhibitions that go around America and Europe.

"It may never get beaten."

The violin, with Hartley's name on it, is believed to have been found at sea with the musician's body more than a week after the Titanic sank.

AP

A violin, believed to be the one played by Titanic bandmaster Wallace Hartley, is displayed at auction house Henry Aldridge and Son in Devizes, England, Friday Oct. 18, 2013.

Focus

Scientists rethink humans' family tree

By MONTE MORIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the humid foothills of the Caucasus Mountains, deep within a carnivore's bloody lair, an early human ancestor fought a life-or-death struggle, and lost.

He had entered the den on a scavenging mission, possibly with several others. Their plan: Use a stone to scrape meat from the bones of freshly killed prey, then flee before a saber-tooth cat or other giant predator caught him in the act.

"It seems that they were fighting for the carcasses, and unfortunately ... they were not always successful," said David Lordkipanidze, a paleoanthropologist and director of the Georgian National Museum in Tbilisi.

Now, almost 2 million years later, the stunningly intact remains of that failed foraging mission are causing researchers to question the shape of our ancestral family tree.

Most notable among the fossilized relics are a cranium and jaw of an adult male that together comprise "Skull 5."

In a paper published Thursday in the journal *Science*, Lordkipanidze and colleagues say that skull and four other fossil craniums recovered at the site contain features previously ascribed to three different species of human ancestor: Homo habilis, Homo rudolfensis and Homo erectus.

The explanation for this is clear, they say: All three species must be one and the same. Differences once perceived to be the mark of separate species are in fact the result of normal variation in physical features, age and gender, they say.

The assertion has struck a nerve in a field where some paleoanthropologists complain that peers are all too quick to classify small or badly crushed fossil finds as evidence of new species.

"It's a little like the Emperor's New Clothes," study co-author Christoph Zollikofer, a neurobiologist at the Anthropological Institute and Museum in Zurich, Switzerland, told reporters. "At some point you have to step out of a given perspective and take a new one."

Reaction to the paper has been strong.

"This is significant," said Tim White, a University of California, Berkeley, paleoanthropologist who was not involved in the study. "I think that years, even decades from now, this will be seen as a classic turning point. It's not going to be received well by those who claim our family tree is more like a creosote bush than a saguaro cactus."

Others say that while the discovery of Skull 5 is a spectacular fossil find, the authors have failed to convince them that it applies to fossils recovered in Africa.

Fred Spoor, a professor of evolutionary anatomy at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, said he's not about to "say goodbye to Homo habilis and Homo rudolfensis."

Though the authors focused on the shape of the fossil craniums, that is not the sole indication of a species. Newly evolved features, however, were.

"Whether you're talking about hominids, ants or frogs, you don't make a species solely on the basis of overall cranium shape," Spoor said.

Ironically, Lordkipanidze and his team initially classified their fossil discoveries as a separate species—Homo Georgicus—in 2002. After further analysis, they retracted that classification and now describe the fossils as belonging to Homo erectus. All of the fossils were found in Dmanisi, Georgia.

The Dmanisi hominids are the oldest ever discovered outside Africa, and researchers say they were probably among the first members of Homo erectus to begin migrating throughout the Old World. Evidence of Homo erectus has been found from Spain to Indonesia to China.

It's unlikely the Dmanisi hominids had much in the way of travel plans when they first arrived in Eurasia, researchers said.

"People in Africa didn't just pack their suitcases ... and leave for Dmanisi," Zollikofer said. "It was dispersal. There was no aim."

Each of the recently found skulls is notable for its large face, heavy brow and protruding jaw, as well as a very small brain case—about one-third the size of modern humans'.

"This is a strange combination of features that we didn't know before in early Homo," said co-author Marcia Ponce de Leon, a paleoanthropologist. "The brain is much smaller than expected."

The brain size came as a shock to many anthropologists. Previously, many believed that our ancestors required larger brains in order to survive beyond Africa.

In addition to Skull 5's final foraging mission, researchers said they could decipher other details from his life. At some point, he suffered a terrific impact to his head, which broke his massive right cheekbone. The wound healed and he survived, but the cheek was left permanently dented, like a car fender.

It also appears that the left side of his jaw had suffered deformation from degenerative arthritis.

These details and others, however, would not be useful to researchers unless they could compare the skull with others found at the site.

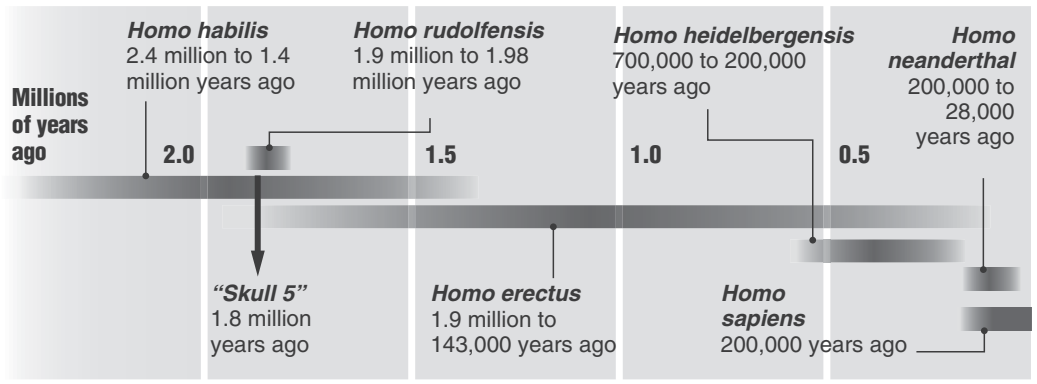
"It's the package that's important as opposed to any one piece," White said. "What's often missed in an announcement like this, when the focus becomes the skull or the names applied to the skull, it's the larger context. ... This is the very first evidence of the hominid expansion out of Africa."

The four other hominid remains found in the area of Skull 5 include a toothless senior, who researchers say may have been cared for by his peers; an adolescent girl; and two other adults.

Lordkipanidze said it was possible that members of the group knew one another, but it was also possible that they ventured into the den separately and died at different times.

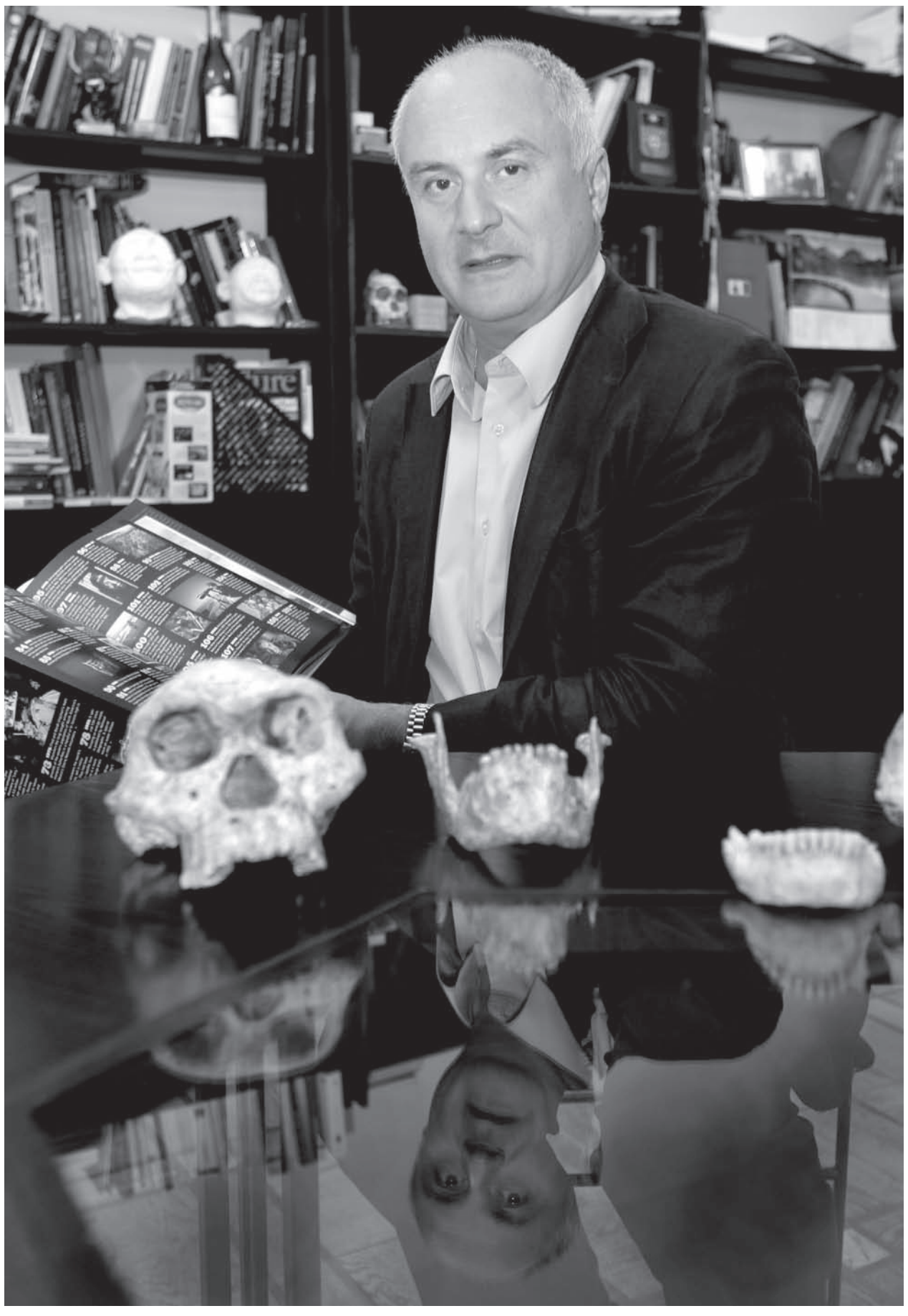
A new family portrait

Five skulls that date back 1.8 million years from Dmanisi, Georgia, are raising new debate about the classification of some early human ancestors. A new study suggests that Homo habilis, Homo rudolfensis and Homo erectus were all the same species. In recent decades, a widely accepted view, depicted here, has held that H. habilis and H. rudolfensis were distinct species from H. erectus, a predecessor of H. sapiens, or modern humans.



Source: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Graphic: Lorena Iniguez Elebee Los Angeles Times

© 2013 MCT



In this photo taken Oct. 2, 2013, David Lordkipanidze, director of the Georgia National Museum, displays the ancient skull and jaws of a pre-human ancestor at the National Museum in Tbilisi, Georgia, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013.

AP

Life & Style

Clark Gregg taps the action and humor of 'SHIELD'

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Like the character he plays, Clark Gregg has worked his way up the career ladder.

Five years ago, he played Agent Phil Coulson for the first time as a small role in the Robert Downey Jr. romp "Iron Man."

Now, after gaining an ever-higher profile as Coulson in subsequent projects including last year's mega-hit "The Avengers," Gregg has broken out as the star of "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," the new acronymic sci-fi thriller (airing on ABC Tuesdays at 8 p.m. EDT), which finds Coulson leading a hand-picked band of agents on their extra-special missions.

Gregg's own mission: to savor his spot as No. 1 on the "Marvel's Agents" call sheet after years of diverse, solid and often acclaimed work that, nonetheless, fell short of making him a household name.

Gregg, 51, has earned his new prominence. As Coulson, he projects a mild demeanor (except when he doesn't) and a boyish smile (except when he takes dead-aim with his weapon or busts a bad guy in the chops). He's a tangy blend of milquetoast and steel.

And he looks good, though not too good, in his habitual company-man business suit.

"Coulson never takes his suit off," said executive producer Maurissa Tancharoen, speaking from Los Angeles, "whether he's on the beach, in the jungle ..."

"But at the risk of spoilers," stepped in fellow exec producer Jed Whedon, "you will see him in a future episode—sans tie!"

Agent Coulson is also a master of the dry quip, courtesy of Gregg.

"No matter what the line, Clark always makes it sound so classy and cool," said Tancharoen.

"The show doesn't take itself too seriously," Gregg notes gratefully during a recent chat in New York, "except in the moments when it needs to. The rest of the time it has a real sense of humor. 'I'm going to Taser you and watch "Supernanny" while you drool into the carpet': That's just not the kind of line I've gotten playing an agent in something else," like, for instance, "The West Wing," where he had a recurring role as, yes, an FBI special agent.

It should come as no surprise that Gregg has a gift for comedy. From 2006 to 2010 he played the mild-mannered but flighty ex-husband of Julia Louis-Dreyfus on her CBS sitcom, "The New Adventures of Old Christine."

Now he gets to lead a team of sexy operatives from the (wait for it) Strategic Homeland Intervention Enforcement and Logistics Division who investigate the extra-normal and superhuman people infesting their futuristic world.

Like "The Avengers," ''Marvel's Agents" boasts a comic-book soul and the creative mojo of Joss (brother of Jed) Whedon. Rounding out its cast are Brett Dalton, Ming-Na Wen, Iain De Caestecker, Elizabeth Henstridge and Chloe Bennet as Coulson's team.

"Coulson loves his job," says Gregg. "He's jaded, he's seen too much, but he can really geek out. You could imagine him doing selfies with crazy alien corpses! I'm making that up, but he's WAY into what he does."

So is Gregg.

"This show depicts a world that I loved as a kid," says Gregg, whose comic-book faves were Iron Fist, a Kung Fu superhero, and Adam Warlock, an artificial human built by scientists. "This show has given me a great chance to take my 13-year-old self to work with me every day."

Gregg has covered a great distance to get there. He studied drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where playwright David Mamet and actor William H. Macy were his teachers.

He later joined them to form New York's respected Atlantic Theater Company. He has written screenplays, including the 2000 Harrison Ford fright drama "What Lies Beneath." He has directed two films from his own screenplays, with his dark comedy "Trust Me" set for release next year.

Along the way, Gregg met actress Jennifer Grey.

"The universe threw us at each other a number of times," he says with a laugh, "but all our attempts at flirting nearly ended up in fistfights. Then, after four years of that, finally something clicked."

They wed in 2001.

AP

This photo released by ABC shows from left, Chloe Bennet, Elizabeth Henstridge, Iain De Caestecker, Clark Gregg, Ming-Na Wen, and Brett Dalton in Marvel's "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D," produced by ABC Studios and Marvel Television.

Redford fretted about 'All Is Lost' reception

NEW YORK (AP)—He's been acting for more than half a century but even Robert Redford still gets nervous showing off a new film.

Redford got a standing ovation when his survival drama "All Is Lost" premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May. But the two-time Oscar-winner reveals he was worried how the sometimes prickly Cannes crowd would react.

Opening gradually beginning Friday, "All Is Lost" tells the story of a lone sailor, played by Redford, facing his own mortality after a collision with a shipping container in the Indian Ocean.

"The first time I saw the film was at the festival in Cannes and because they boo films there sometimes, even though you're in a tuxedo, you're sitting in a place that could boo something," said the 77-year-old actor. "When the film ended I thought, 'I don't know how this is going to go.' I really didn't."

Redford also said his first viewing of the film, in which he's the only actor, recalled the extreme demands of the role. "To be reminded of how wet you were so much of the time, which was not fun ... you kind of forgot about how physical it was and that comes back."

Redford recently sat down with The Associated Press to talk about "All Is Lost," a film with virtually no talking at all:

AP: What did you think of your performance?

Redford: I looked at my performance because I couldn't avoid it, (laughs), but no, it wasn't wow it was just, 'Yeah, I remember that. I remember that; hmm. Oh, that's what that ended up looking like.' (Redford says he doesn't look at monitors or dailies while shooting because "I don't like being aware of myself when I'm working.)

AP: During filming did you ever wonder, 'Whoa, what did I get myself into?'

Redford: I was so busy surviving that there wasn't a whole lot of time to think. You just had to do. You had to be there do it as an actor. You had to get through it. There were a couple of times when I thought, 'Hmm, this is extreme,' but you just do it and then you forget about thinking that.

Redford

AP: That works for the part.

Redford: It was what was supposed to be. The character is in charge of things in the beginning and then things happen where he's not so much in charge. He's a little bit in charge but not much and then finally he's completely not in charge. He's at the mercy of the elements and then what you do? I found that exciting as an actor to go through that process. ... You finally get to the point where there's only improvisation. There's nothing left except improvise 'cause you're not prepared for what's happening.

AP: I read that you pressed director J.C. Chandor for a backstory and he wasn't having any of it.

Redford: I just do what any actor says, 'OK, there's not much dialogue, in fact there is none, there's very little backstory, so what's on your mind? Is there something I need to know as an actor?' And when he was evasive, I started to get nervous. 'Does he not know how to describe his own film?' Until I realized, no, this is intentional. He's intentionally being evasive—meaning that what's in there is all he wants to be in there and once I got that I released that tendency to ask that.

AP: Is there a message?

Redford: I've always been fascinated by that point in life for everyone—there comes a moment when all seems to be lost, when there's nothing more to do. You can't do anything more. You're up against the odds that are against you and there seems to be no way out, all is lost, no point in continuing and so some people quit and they stop and others for unknown reasons just keep going because that's all there is to do.

AP: How was filming "Captain America"?

Redford: J.C. (Chandor) asked me to be in a film and I had supported independent film for so many years but nobody ever asked me to be in a film and he did and I thought I was inclined to take it just because he asked. A little bit of the same thing with 'Captain America.' It's so different filmmaking, so completely high-tech and so completely different I thought it would be interesting and fun to understand what that is. ... It was slightly weird."

AP: Any thoughts of retiring?

Redford: If it's not brought up to me, I'm probably not going to think about it.

Maya Angelou accepts Mailer Center lifetime award

NEW YORK (AP)—Her body weak, her voice rich and strong, Maya Angelou sang, lectured and reminisced as she accepted a lifetime achievement award Thursday night from the Norman Mailer Center.

The 85-year-old author, poet, dancer and actress was honored during a benefit gala at the New York Public Library, the annual gathering organized by the Mailer Center and writers colony. Seated in a wheelchair, she was a vivid presence in dark glasses and a sparkling black dress as she marveled that a girl from a segregated Arkansas village could grow up to become a literary star.

"Imagine it," she said, "a town so prejudiced black people couldn't even eat vanilla ice cream."

Angelou was introduced by her former editor at Random House, Robert Loomis, and she praised him for talking her into writing her breakthrough memoir, the million-selling "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." The key was suggesting to her that the book might be too hard to write.

The people who knew her best, she explained, understood that "if you want to get Maya Angelou to do so something, tell her she can't."

Angelou, a longtime resident of North Carolina, will be back in Manhattan next month to collect an honorary National Book Award medal.

Angelou

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Junot Diaz and the late author-journalist Michael Hastings also received prizes Thursday. Hastings' widow, Elise, teared up as she accepted a journalism award on behalf of her husband, who died in a car accident last summer at age 33.

She recalled that Hastings, best known for a Rolling Stone story about the U.S. war in Afghanistan that led to the resignation of Gen. Stanley McChrystal, felt a kinship with the brilliant and troublesome Mailer. When the couple fought, she said, he would point out that in "comparison to Mailer he was a great husband," a reference to a notorious incident in which Mailer stabbed his wife.

Hastings was a "dissident, a cynical idealist and a breathtaking writer," she said.

The dinner event was the fifth gala for the Mailer center, named for the celebrated author who died in 2007 and dedicated to helping writers "across all genres who seek artful ways to express themselves and provoke meaningful discussion about our society."

Previous honorees include Toni Morrison, Keith Richards and Robert Caro.

Director Bay attacked on 'Transformers' set in HK

HONG KONG (AP)—Hollywood director Michael Bay was attacked and slightly injured on the set of the fourth installment of the "Transformers" movie series filming in Hong Kong, police said.

A police spokeswoman said two brothers surnamed Mak who own a shop near the movie set approached Bay and demanded 100,000 Hong Kong dollars ($13,000) on Thursday.

When Bay refused to pay, they assaulted him, she said. The brothers also allegedly assaulted three police officers who were called to the set.

The spokeswoman said Bay suffered a minor injury to his face but declined medical treatment. She spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

Mak Chi-shing, 27, and Mak Chi-hang, 28, were arrested. They appeared in court Friday, each charged with blackmail and assaulting a police officer. No plea was made and they were remanded in custody until next month.

Paramount Pictures gave a somewhat different account of the incident, which it said occurred on the film's first day of production in Hong Kong after months of filming on U.S. locations.

It said in a statement that a man rushed onto the set wielding an air conditioning unit and swung it at Bay's head. It said Bay ducked and wrestled the air conditioning unit away from the man.

Police arrested the man and two companions, and no one on the set was injured, Paramount said.

On his own website, Bay said "drugged up" assailants had been belligerent toward the film crew and one rolled metal carts toward actors on the set while trying to "shake us down." His statement said security personnel subdued one man and that four were arrested for assaulting officers who responded.

Non-violent attempts at extortion involving location filming have been an occasional problem in Hollywood over the years, in which residents would intentionally disrupt filming by making noise or other means in an effort to prompt a payoff. In recent years, studios have been more diligent with compensation to residents in neighborhoods where location shooting is occurring.

Bay has directed the three previous "Transformers" films, in addition to such action flicks as "Bad Boys" and "Armageddon."

"Transformers 4: Age of Extinction" is partly set in Hong Kong. It stars Mark Wahlberg and is to be released next June.

AP

Malala Yousafzai gives a copy of her book to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II during a reception for youth, education and the Commonwealth at Buckingham Palace, London, Friday Oct. 18, 2013.

'The Lion King' to set new milestone on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Lion King" has more reason to roar—it's on pace to end the week as the first Broadway show to earn $1 billion.

According to The Broadway League, the show ended last week with a 16-year gross of $999,267,836, and it regularly pulls in between $1 million and $2 million a week over eight performances at the Minskoff Theatre.

The show, featuring the music of Elton John and Tim Rice, including the Academy Award-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," brought the 1994 animated Disney movie to life onstage in 1997. Director and designer Julie Taymor created the memorable costumes, puppetry and scenic design.

"This humbling milestone is a testament to the vision and artistry of Julie Taymor," producer Thomas Schumacher, president of Disney Theatrical Productions, said in a statement.

"For nearly 17 years she has been (the) guiding creative force and an inspiration to the show's brilliant cast, musicians and crew. But above all, we thank our loving audiences who continue to be moved and delighted night after night at the Minskoff Theatre and all around the world."

"The Lion King" has been a model of consistency in its march through records. In April 2012, it swiped the title of Broadway's all-time highest-grossing show from "The Phantom of the Opera," despite "Phantom" having almost a full 10 years' head start. The Disney show opened in November 1997, while "Phantom" debuted in January 1988.

Overall, the show has made $5 billion across 21 global productions including shows in Japan, Australia, South Africa, Singapore and Brazil. This summer, Disney announced the show's total touring box-office gross in North America alone had reached $1 billion.

Part of its longevity is due to the movie tie-in, simple-to-understand story, family friendly themes and the fact that it's a spectacle not dependent on big-name stars—important for attracting tourists whose command of English might be weak. Some 11,215,000 have seen it on Broadway, according to data from The Broadway League.

The show is breathing down the neck of "Les Miserables" for the title of fourth longest-running Broadway show, behind only "Chicago," ''Cats" and "The Phantom of the Opera." ''Les Miserables" closed in 2003 after 6,680 shows and "The Lion King" will end this week with 6,621.

Malala skips school to meet Queen Elizabeth II

LONDON (AP)—Malala Yousafzai skipped school for the day but she had a pretty good excuse: she was meeting Queen Elizabeth II.

The 16-year-old advocate for girls' education and survivor of a Taliban assassination attempt gave the 87-year-old queen a copy of her book, "I Am Malala," and spoke Friday with her about the importance of education.

Malala said she wouldn't ordinarily miss a school day but had made an exception. The pair also chatted about Malala's homeland, Pakistan's Swat Valley, which the queen visited decades ago.

Malala was one of the guests invited to the reception on youth and education at Buckingham Palace in London. Earlier this month she was ranked by bookmakers as one of the top possible contenders for a Nobel Peace Prize.

AP

Malala Yousafzai gives a copy of her book to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II during a reception for youth, education and the Commonwealth at Buckingham Palace, London, Friday Oct. 18, 2013.

Pussy Riot member to be sent to new Russian prison

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian prison officials say a jailed member of the punk rock protest band Pussy Riot will be transferred to another penal colony after spending nine days on a hunger strike.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, who along with two other band members was convicted of hooliganism for a provocative performance in Moscow's main Orthodox cathedral in 2012, went on a hunger strike in September to protest conditions in the prison where she is serving her two-year sentence. She was hospitalized nine days later when her health deteriorated.

The Federal Penitentiary Service said in a statement Friday it will meet Tolokonnikova's demand and move her to another prison "for her personal safety."

Last month Tolokonnikova said prison officials have made threats against her for speaking out against the poor working conditions.

Woman who left bad marriage hesitates to take the next step

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Last summer, after 24 years of marriage, I finally summoned the nerve to take my teenage daughter and leave my emotionally abusive husband. We are both thriving now.

I have been in therapy, lost almost 45 pounds and have rediscovered my self-confidence all over again. A friend I have known for more than 10 years has expressed interest in dating me. I like him very much, but I'm not sure if it would be appropriate to date yet. What do you think?

TENTATIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR TENTATIVE: Tempting as this is, proceed with caution. When a person has been emotionally starved for a long time, then begins to feel attractive, accepted and validated again, the result can be euphoria—a powerful "high." Right now you need to be rational.

What I think about your dating this man is less important than what your therapist thinks right now. Please make this question a priority during your next sessions because the insight you'll gain into yourself will help you not only in a relationship with this man—if you decide to have one—but in future ones as well.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 86-year-old dad buys all his food from the markdown "quick sale" tables, then lets it sit in the fridge for weeks or even months before he eats it. He insists the mold is penicillin and good for you. He eats moldy cheese, bread, fruit and meat I wouldn't feed to my dogs. He has a turkey in the freezer that expired in 2008, and he can't understand why I won't cook it for my pets.

Dad reads your column every day, so please give me some input. By the way, he isn't poor and can afford good, fresh food.

PERPLEXED DAUGHTER
IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PERPLEXED DAUGHTER: Your father is a product of his upbringing during the Great Depression, a time when many people were starving. The habits people form when they are young can be hard to shake.

One reason that perishable products have a "sell by" date is that the food begins to lose its nutritional value. As to your father's excuse that he's ingesting "penicillin" when he eats moldy fruits, vegetables, baked goods and dairy products—I'm sure his doctor would prefer he get it by prescription only.

Spoiled food can cause serious illness, which is why the U.S. government publishes pamphlets on the important topic of food safety. Visit www.foodsafety.gov and print out some of the "Food Safety at a Glance" charts for him. If he refuses to take your advice and mine, perhaps he'll be more receptive to what Uncle Sam has to say.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of two years, "Jesse," has suddenly changed. He's pushing me away. We are both 17 and have a 9-month-old baby.

Jesse spent the first six months of our son's life in state custody. Since he has been back, he has been really distant. He ignores me and isn't affectionate anymore. When I get upset about it, he denies it and says I have no reason to be upset.

I'm scared our relationship isn't as strong as I thought. My son deserves a family, but it's falling apart. What should I do?

TROUBLED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TROUBLED: You have no idea what might have happened to Jesse after he was sent away, so give him some space, but let him know that if he wants to talk about it, you are willing to listen and be supportive. Don't push and don't be clingy. You may have to be strong for all three of you. Complete your education, take parenting classes, and encourage Jesse to do it, too. Do this and your son WILL have a family, whether or not it's the one you thought you'd have with Jesse.

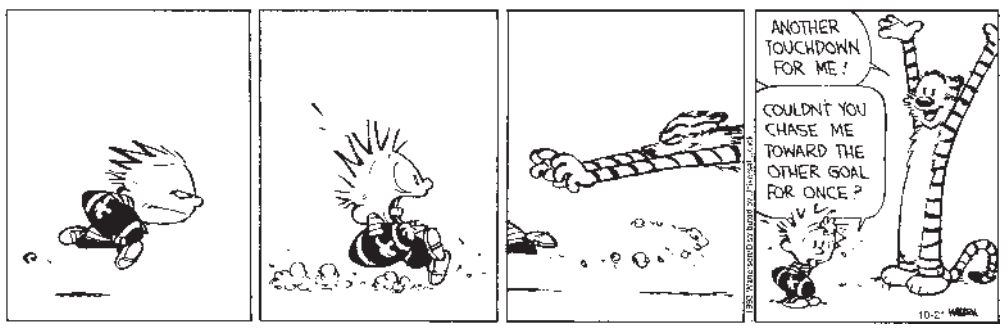
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

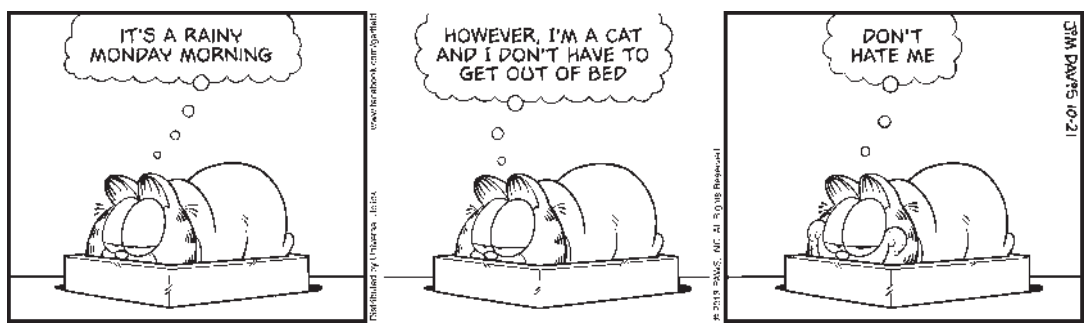
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

GO ON GUYS. PICK A GOOD ONE.
I WANT THIS ONE. IT HAS THAT NASTY WHITE MOLDY STUFF ALL OVER IT!
MINE'S GROSSER! IT HAS THOSE DISTURBING LITTLE BUMPS ALL AROUND THE TOP.
OUR KIDS AREN'T RIGHT.
I WANT MINE TO LOOK LIKE IT'S BARFING PUMPKIN GUTS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ALL OF OUR OPERATORS ARE BUSY. PLEASE REMAIN ON THE LINE. YOUR ESTIMATED WAIT-TIME IS 45 MINUTES.
STUPID ☆@%$# RECORDING!!
OKAY, MR. POTTY-MOUTH. NOW IT'S TWO HOURS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

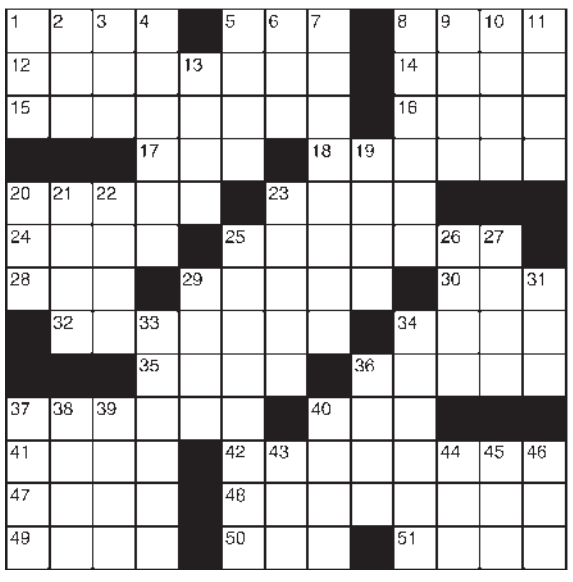
ACROSS
1 Old fogy
5 Feminine pronoun
8 Related (to)
12 Huge
14 Unless, in law
15 Bilko, for one
16 Money
17 Little devil
18 Antipasto morsels
20 Wild West show
23 Unsigned (Abbr.)
24 Greek vowels
25 Beetle Bailey, e.g.
28 Accomplished
29 Plant bristles
30 Raw mineral
32 Bligh or Hook
34 Academic
35 "Time" founder Henry
36 Language of Cardiff
37 Silas of "The Da Vinci Code" was one
40 Plead
41 Trickery
42 Klinger of "M*A*S*H," e.g.
47 Cordelia's dad
48 Flaw in a board
49 Underwater vessels
50 Piglet's mama
51 Pinochle ploy

DOWN
1 — Moines
2 Individual
3 Golden, in Grenoble
4 Wild parties
5 Cleanser
6 Attila, for instance
7 Tallinn resident
8 Severe chest problem
9 Chicken —
10 Capri or Wight
11 Young lice
13 Office note
19 Specialty of 27-Down
20 Scarlet
21 Ear-related
22 Baby's father
23 Band-leader Shaw
25 Symbols of pride
26 33-Down, e.g.
27 Son of Aphrodite
29 Dazzle
31 Biblical verb suffix
33 Needle-nose implement
34 Large unit of resistance
36 Cried
37 Piercing gadgets
38 Stead
39 Spill the beans
40 Forehead
43 Yoko of music
44 Fish eggs
45 Completely
46 Started

Solution time: 27 mins.

I	S	O	■	D	R	A	G	■	L	A	M	P
L	U	V	■	A	O	N	E	■	O	L	E	O
O	V	E	R	R	I	D	E	■	W	O	H	K
■	■	R	I	E	L	■	■	P	E	E	V	E
A	S	T	O	R	■	A	W	O	L	■	■	■
F	I	I	T	■	O	V	F	R	I	O	R	D
R	A	M	■	S	P	E	A	K	■	V	A	R
O	V	E	R	I	U	N	■	C	E	R	A	■
■	■	■	O	U	S	T	■	S	H	R	E	W
W	O	U	L	D	■	■	P	H	I	L	■	■
I	T	L	L	■	O	V	E	R	C	O	A	T
N	I	N	E	■	R	I	L	E	■	O	W	E
S	C	A	R	■	R	E	T	D	■	K	E	N

Friday's answer 10-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matt Dallas, 31; Kim Kardashian, 33; Carrie Fisher, 57; Judge Judy Sheindlin, 71.

Happy Birthday: Procrastination will lead nowhere. Initiate your plans, even if you are uncertain where they will take you. Live in the moment and follow through with precision and clarity. As you move forward, your plans may change, but being productive, making progress and gaining valuable experience will count for something. Share your thoughts and you will develop a special connection. Your numbers are 3, 12, 18, 24, 27, 35, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take pride in what you do. Surpass anyone that stands in your way. Use adversity to motivate yourself. Strive to reach your goals and show everyone what you are capable of doing. Don't back down. Be productive and progressive. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do what comes naturally and you will make a good impression. Your serious and conscientious way of approaching people and situations will show your strength and courage. Engage in activities that lead to better overall fitness. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your unpredictable nature will play in your favor. An investment, signing a contract, lease or real estate deal will help to stabilize your life, as long as you are practical and honest regarding what you can handle financially. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Network with individuals you find interesting. What you learn today will help you map out a path that will promote new friendships, skills and a philosophic outlook. Family, peers or your lover will play a role in the choices you make. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Sit tight and observe what others do and say. Make your changes or choices based on truth and fact. Love is in the stars but problems with past partners or people who depend on you can be expected. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't make a decision regarding a personal matter. Take more time to discuss your thoughts and to hear advice and suggestions offered from those you love and trust. The information you gather now will help you avoid making an emotional mistake. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Money matters will weigh heavy on your mind. Look over contracts, settlements and your personal finances and overhead and see where you can cut corners to ease stress. Don't lend or borrow money or possessions. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional deception will not lead to a happy ending. Use your intuition to help make the right move at the right time. Changing your living arrangements will help solve your problem. Honesty is the only route to personal freedom. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't hide behind a lie. A change in the way you live is overdue. Making a poor personal choice will lead to anger and an unexpected turn of events. Don't wait until you are coerced into a force play. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Jump at the chance to share your ideas and to put your plans into motion. You will meet people with similar interests willing to help you—or even partner with you—in order to keep costs down and motivation up. Expand your interests. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Avoid being pushed into something you don't want to do. Pursue your interests and focus on your home and making it a place of entertainment and comfort. Love is in the stars but being forthright about your feelings must come first. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Wheel and deal all you can. Firm up on agreements, take care of contracts and investments and focus on expanding your interests, friendships and income. Don't let an emotional situation cost you. Stick to business and financial matters. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious, sensitive and persistent. You are imaginative and charming.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		6		3		1	
9		5		7		4		6
	6						9	
6			2		7			8
	7			8			6	
3			9		5			2
	5						7	
4		3		2		1		5
	2		1		9		3	

Difficulty Level ★ 10/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	6	1	9	8	3	7	5
7	3	8	6	5	4	9	2	1
9	5	1	3	7	2	4	8	6
5	1	2	9	4	6	8	3	7
6	7	3	2	8	1	5	9	4
8	4	9	7	3	5	1	6	2
3	6	7	4	1	9	2	5	8
1	9	5	8	2	7	6	4	3
2	8	4	5	6	3	7	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRAVEL INSURANCE Solution: 7 letters

S	B	L	E	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	E	L	P	A
E	P	O	R	L	G	G	Y	L	H	T	N	O	M	A
P	L	S	A	I	G	T	M	L	C	L	B	(T)	S	Y
Y	A	S	P	A	U	I	R	O	K	A	N	(R)	T	C
T	N	Y	M	D	A	O	V	T	S	E	E	(I)	N	N
N	O	A	O	L	T	E	H	I	M	H	E	(P)	E	E
E	I	L	C	C	R	G	C	E	R	A	F	W	M	G
M	T	E	O	A	I	S	S	E	N	L	L	I	T	R
E	A	D	G	L	R	R	Y	R	U	J	N	I	A	E
C	N	E	F	A	U	R	C	L	A	C	I	D	E	M
A	I	N	A	B	E	L	I	G	I	B	L	E	R	E
L	T	T	M	R	G	T	L	E	S	P	O	R	T	S
P	S	I	I	O	N	S	O	C	R	E	D	I	T	A
E	E	S	L	A	A	O	P	T	I	O	N	A	L	C
R	D	T	Y	D	R	C	A	R	D	S	M	R	E	T

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Last Friday's Answer: Outbreak

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., **Plaintiff,**	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458**
-v-	:	
DONALD C. CAMACHO, **Defendant.**	:	

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4,2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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2	Power Crane Operator	$5.60-6.50 PER HOUR	Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as a Power Crane Operator
2	Construction Superintendent	$1,800 to 2,000.00/ month	Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as a Construction Superintendent
2	Mason	$5.60-6.25 PER HOUR	Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as a Mason.

All positions close on October 22, 2013. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Red Sox oust Tigers to advance to World Series

BOSTON (AP)—When Shane Victorino signed with the Boston Red Sox as a free agent in the offseason, they were coming off a last-place finish that was their worst in almost half a century. They had fired their manager for the second year in a row.

He believed they could turn it around.

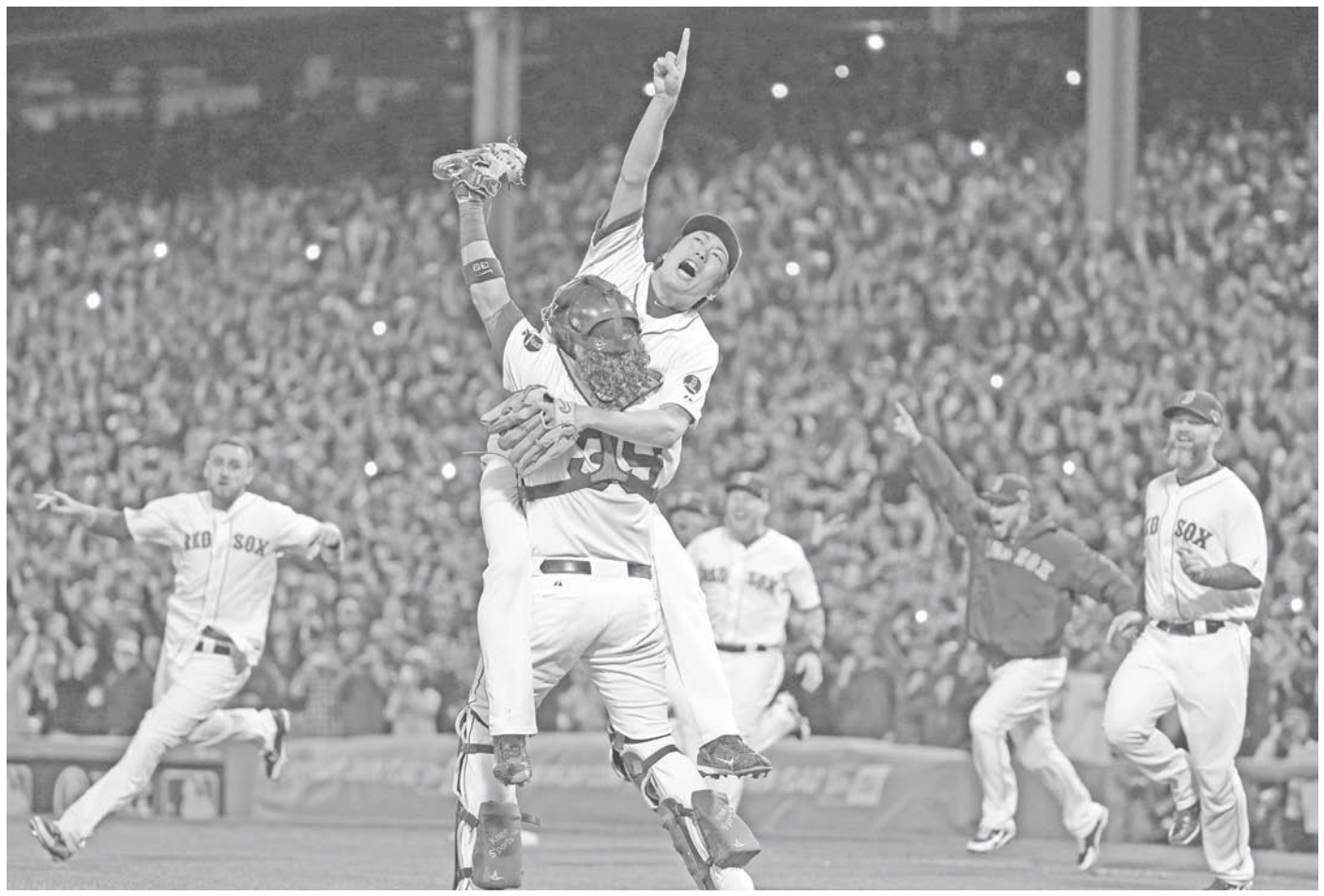
And quickly.

Victorino brought the Red Sox one big step closer to completing their comeback, sending them to the World Series with a seventh-inning grand slam that gave Boston a 5-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers in Game 6 of the AL championship series Saturday night.

The Red Sox will open the Series on Wednesday night against the St. Louis Cardinals, the team they swept in 2004 to end their 86-year title drought. The Cardinals won the NL pennant on Friday night by eliminating the Los Angeles Dodgers in six games.

"It's one of those moments you live for," Victorino said as he wandered around the Fenway Park infield while Red Sox fans serenaded him with his theme song, Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds," and its chorus, "Don't worry about a thing, `Cause every little thing is gonna be all right."

"Just listen to the crowd," Victorino said, referring then to the Boston Marathon bombings that left the city reeling during the first month of his first season in town. "The one thing I came here to do is to be a part of this city. With all we went through as a city, there's definitely a bond."



Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Koji Uehara, rear, and catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia celebrate the Red Sox 5-2 win over the Detroit Tigers in Game 6 of the American League baseball championship series on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013, in Boston.

Detroit took a 2-1 lead in the sixth and 21-game winner Max Scherzer protected it until the seventh, when Boston loaded the bases on a double, a walk and an error by rookie shortstop Jose Iglesias, traded by the Red Sox in July.

Victorino fell behind Jose Veras 0-2 but lofted a hanging curveball over the Green Monster to set off a celebration in the Red Sox dugout and in the Fenway Park stands.

"It's been a special ride, and we're still going," second baseman Dustin Pedroia said. "We're not going to stop. We know what our goal is. We want to win the World Series."

Junichi Tazawa got one out for the win, Craig Breslow pitched a scoreless eighth and series MVP Koji Uehara got the last three outs before the Red Sox poured out of the dugout to begin their now-familiar celebration on the mound.

"The way I would sum it up is that I thought their starters were good," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "I thought their bullpen was great."

Uehara, who inherited the closer job after the team's first two choices were injured, posted three saves and a win in the series. Then he joked about pitching so well under pressure.

"To tell you the truth, I almost threw up," Uehara kidded through a translator.

It's the 13th AL pennant for the Red Sox and their first since 2007, when they swept the Colorado Rockies to win it all for the second time in four seasons. Boston swept the Cardinals in `04, winning Game 4 in St. Louis to clinch the title that put an end to generations of disappointment.

The latest trip comes one year after a 69-win season that prompted the team to jettison its high-priced stars, rebuild the roster and bring in manager John Farrell to replace Bobby Valentine. Victorino was one of the biggest additions, and he delivered on Saturday as he did for much of the season.

"Since the first day of spring training, there wasn't one person more important than the next," said outfielder Jonny Gomes, another newcomer, who doubled to lead off the seventh, missing a homer over the Green Monster by no more than a foot. "We're all pulling in the same direction."

Scherzer got one out in the seventh but left after walking rookie Xander Bogaerts to put runners on first and second. Drew Smyly got Jacoby Ellsbury to hit a grounder up the middle, but it popped out of Iglesias' glove behind second base and everyone was safe.

Veras came in and quickly got ahead of Victorino. But he hung a curveball and Victorino sent it toward the 37-foot left-field wall, which had already knocked down two Red Sox line drives.

This one left no doubt.

It was the second career postseason slam for Victorino, who also had a record-setting hit-by-pitch in the sixth but failed to get a bunt down in the third.

"He's come up big a number of times this season, none bigger," Farrell said. "Probably the last thing we're thinking of, that he's going to hit a ball out of the ballpark, and thankfully the curveball stayed (up)."

Fresh-faced Cards vs bearded Bosox

BOSTON (AP)—Big Papi, Dustin Pedroia and the bearded guys from Boston. Michael Wacha, Trevor Rosenthal and those fresh mugs from St. Louis.

Pretty neat face-off in this World Series.

Cardinals-Red Sox, once again in October. Fully rested, they'll start Wednesday night at Fenway Park with Boston opening as a slim favorite.

Postseason stars from past and present—Carlos Beltran, David Freese, John Lackey, David Ortiz and Adam Wainwright.

Juicy plotlines—can Gold Glove catcher Yadier Molina shut down Jacoby Ellsbury and the runnin' Red Sox? Can all-world closer Koji Uehara stop Matt Holliday and the Cardinals?

Plus, plenty of history - think Stan Musial vs. Ted Williams in 1946, Bob Gibson vs. Carl Yastrzemski in `67 or Pedro Martinez vs. Albert Pujols in 2004. Or, perhaps more memorably that last time, Curt Schilling and the bloody sock vs. The Curse.

The Red Sox and Cardinals are hardly arch enemies, however. They haven't played since Kevin Youkilis homered over the Green Monster in the 13th inning on June 22, 2008.

This year, Boston and St. Louis bounced back from disappointments and tied for the most victories in the majors with 97. Not since the Braves and Yankees in 1999 have league win leaders met in the World Series (the Cardinals and Red Sox were the top-scoring teams in their leagues, too).

Mike Napoli, Shane Victorino and Boston's scraggly band rose under first-year manager John Farrell, a season after the team hit bottom under Bobby Valentine with its most losses in nearly five decades.

Matt Carpenter, Matt Adams and St. Louis rebounded a year after wasting a 3-1 lead in the NL championship series against the Giants. Manager Mike Matheny got lots of help from a rookie-laden staff.

Wacha was the MVP of the NLCS and is 3-0 with an 0.43 ERA in the postseason. Rosenthal took over the closer role with a 100 mph fastball. Shelby Miller, Carlos Martinez and others also made major contributions.

The Cardinals captured their 19th NL pennant by trouncing Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers on Friday night in Game 6 of the NLCS.

"Watching them last night, they've got a fantastic team. And a lot of young power arms that will walk to that mound," Farrell said.

The Red Sox earned their 13th pennant Saturday night, riding Victorino's go-ahead grand slam to a 5-2 victory over Detroit in Game 6 of the ALCS. Uehara was the MVP with a win and three saves.

"It's been a special ride," Pedroia said, "and we're still going."

For Beltran, this will be his first time in the World Series. For the Cardinals, it's their fourth trip in 10 years.

For the Red Sox, it's their third Series visit in the last decade. And they hope for a repeat performance from 2004, when they never trailed during a four-game sweep of the Cardinals and won their first championship since 1918.

Johnny Damon playfully called his Boston teammates a bunch of "idiots" and Kevin Millar exhorting them to "Cowboy Up!" Manny Ramirez was the MVP of the series while Ortiz showed he was more than a slugger, switching from designated hitter to snazzy fielder at first base when the Series shifted to old Busch Stadium.

There are just a few leftovers from that fall.

Ortiz lined a key grand slam in this ALCS. Molina is now regarded as baseball's best defensive catcher - he was 21 in that `04 matchup and a backup to Matheny.

Now, their teams are set to meet for the fourth time in a World Series. Aside from Dodgers-Yankees, there hasn't been a more common pairing since that initial Red Sox-Cardinals meeting in 1946.

Here we go again.

"We've still got one more step," Victorino said.

Clinic sales to minors not MLB concern

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball's No. 2 executive testified that the sport wasn't concerned if the head of a Florida clinic distributed performance-enhancing drugs to minors because MLB's sole interest was his relationship with players under investigation, a person familiar with the Alex Rodriguez grievance hearing told The Associated Press.

MLB chief operating officer Rob Manfred testified this week and was asked by Rodriguez's lawyers about documents indicating Biogenesis of America founder Anthony Bosch had given PEDs to high school students, the person said Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the testimony is confidential.

Manfred said he assumed, based on documents in MLB's possession and media reports, that Bosch had distributed illegal substances to minors, but he never asked Bosch about it. Manfred also said MLB was interested only in possible criminal activity involving players, the person said.

Bosch agreed to cooperate with MLB's investigation, and 14 players were suspended this summer.

Rodriguez drew the harshest penalty, a 211-game suspension announced Aug. 5. The players' association filed a grievance to overturn the suspension of the New York Yankees third baseman. Arbitrator Fredric Horowitz has presided over eight days of hearings, with the case to resume the week of Nov. 18.

Federal and Florida authorities have begun investigations of the now-closed clinic.

As part of a June 3 agreement between Bosch and MLB, part of which was read to the AP, MLB promised to inform federal and state law enforcement agencies of Bosch's cooperation and its value in ridding baseball of PEDs.

Manfred accused the person familiar with the grievance of mischaracterizing his testimony and of violating a confidentiality order.

"What I testified to was that our sole obligation was to determine whether players had violated the Basic Agreement and the Joint Drug Agreement and the enforcement of laws," he said by telephone Saturday. "Baseball has been a leader through its support of the Taylor Hooton Foundation in preventing steroid abuse by young people, and we are proud of our track record in that regard."

Nets retire Kidd's No. 5, then beat Heat

Brooklyn Nets head coach Jason Kidd, right, is honored during a ceremony to retire his jersey number before an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul Pierce drove his shoulder right into LeBron James, a postseason foul in a preseason game.

A message to the NBA champions?

''It's a message to the league,'' Pierce said.

The Brooklyn Nets showed the defensive toughness Pierce said will be their identity, smothering the Miami Heat 86-62 on Thursday night after retiring coach Jason Kidd's number.

Brook Lopez scored 14 points for the Nets on a night that peaked with the pregame. Kidd's No. 5 was lifted to the Barclays Center rafters during a ceremony a few minutes before the tip, honoring him for leading the franchise to its greatest NBA success.

The game itself could have used the jolt Kidd provided when the Nets acquired him in 2001. Except for a few James highlights, it was typical exhibition play, with starters resting and subs misfiring for much of the night.

But there's already a hint this could become a rivalry when the games do count, as Miami-Boston was before the Celtics traded Pierce and Garnett to Brooklyn. A day earlier, James noted that those two shouldn't have been so hard on Ray Allen when he opted to leave the Celtics for the Heat, since Pierce and Garnett ended up leaving themselves - though Allen was a free agent and the pair was traded.

''Tell LeBron worry about Miami,'' Garnett said when asked about James' comments. ''He has nothing to do with Celtic business.''

James and Chris Bosh each finished with 16 points for the Heat, who shot 32 percent and did next to nothing in the 20 minutes James wasn't on the floor.

''We've got so many guys out, we're just trying to get better and not waste an opportunity to get better,'' James said. ''I think we did that at phases. Obviously, we don't have all our guys playing, but when guys were in the game, they played, worked hard.''

The Nets believe their acquisition of Pierce and Garnett, along with a number of other moves, has given them a roster that can compete with the Heat in the Eastern Conference. All that could really be told from this game was that the Nets appear to have a better back end of their bench.

Miami managed just 12 points in the second quarter, when it went mostly with reserves and fell behind 44-28.

Dwyane Wade sat out for the Heat and Deron Williams is still sidelined by a sprained ankle for the Nets, but the exhibition at times had a playoff feel to it thanks to the rivalry among some of the veterans. James was dribbling quickly up the floor in the first quarter and Pierce simply threw his shoulder into James for a foul that stopped the fast break.

Garnett played only 10 minutes.

Kidd led the Nets to consecutive NBA Finals as a player and became the sixth member of the franchise to have his number retired. A few former teammates attended the ceremony, while taped messages from Kenyon Martin, Vince Carter and Richard Jefferson were shown during breaks in the game.

Key reserves Allen and Chris Andersen also sat out for the Heat, while the Nets remained without Jason Terry and Andrei Kirilenko from their bench.

The teams will meet again in Brooklyn on Nov. 1 in the Nets' home opener.

Webb Simpson maintains 4-shot lead in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Webb Simpson was far from comfortable with a four-stroke lead at TPC Summerlin.

''This is a golf course where guys can shoot, as we've seen this week, 8, 9, 10, 11 under,'' Simpson said. ''So, I have to go out with a mindset of attacking and trying to make birdies.''

Simpson maintained his four-shot advantage Saturday in the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, birdieing four of the last seven holes for a 4-under 67.

''I think the key tomorrow is to, No. 1, stay patient again in case I do get off to another slow start,'' said Simpson, who missed a playoff - that Jonathan Byrd won with a hole-in-one on the fourth extra hole - by a stroke in 2010 after making a double bogey on the par-3 17th.

Making his first start since helping the U.S. win the Presidents Cup, the 2012 U.S. Open champion was 19 under overall. He opened with rounds of 64 and 63.

''The conditions were perfect,'' Simpson said. ''I knew guys were shooting low numbers. I felt like I was playing good enough. I just was shooting pretty bad - parred 9, dropped the shot at 11. So, it was frustrating. But my caddie just told me to stay patient and let the birdies come. And that's what happened. I made some putts coming in.''

Chesson Hadley was second after a 67, birdieing the short par-4 15th and following with a hole-out for an eagle on the par-5 16th.

''They waved us up on 15 and I just roasted a driver up there,'' Hadley said. ''I think it hit perfectly into the hill and dribbled up there to about 10 feet. I hit a good putt. It was just a little to the left, so it was a nice tap-in birdie. So that was good.

''Then I drove it right on 16, and I laid up to the perfect number. And my first thought when I hit it was, 'Please go a little.' Then I saw it take the first bounce and it looked like it just one hopped right in the bottom of the stick. That was huge.''

The Web.com Tour Championship winner last month, Hadley is making his fourth career PGA Tour start. He and Simpson are both from Raleigh, N.C.

''Webb and I grew up playing together,'' Hadley said. ''He's always been more successful earlier than I have been. And you know, he's been such a good role model and just influence for the game as far as his faith is concerned. I'm just looking forward to playing with him tomorrow.''

Jeff Overton was third at 14 under after a 68.

Jason Bohn had a 69 to reach 13 under, and Sean O'Hair shot a 63 to join first-round leader J.J. Henry, defending champion Ryan Moore, William McGirt, Ryo Ishikawa and Russell Knox at 12 under.

O'Hair eagled the 15th.

''I've been playing some nice golf, and it was nice to come out today and get started off quick,'' O'Hair said. ''I was 3 under pretty quickly and turned at 4, and kind of started off slow on the back nine, but that eagle helped on 15. So, it was just all in all a great day.''

O'Hair had to play the four-event Web.com Tour Finals to regain his PGA Tour card.

''I think it was a tough time this year for me, especially late because I was realizing I was going to lose my card,'' O'Hair said. ''I just had to get my mind right going into those Web.com events. I knew I had an opportunity to get my card back, but I had to be in a right spot mentality. It was a disappointing time for me.

Gronkowski cleared to debut for Patriots

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The long wait for Rob Gronkowski's 2013 debut appears over.

The New England Patriots star tight end ''has now been cleared by all his doctors to play Sunday in the Jets game,'' Drew Rosenhaus, his agent, said Friday.

Gronkowski's return would be very good news for the Patriots, who have struggled on offense, and bad news for the New York Jets, who would have to find a way to stop the two-time Pro Bowl standout. He was questionable on the Patriots' injury report Friday for the fifth straight week, meaning they list his chances of playing Sunday at 50-50.

Gronkowski had offseason surgery on his back and broken left forearm. But he participated in every practice on a limited basis since the season began, and has watched as the Patriots opened 5-1.

His status for each game has drawn plenty of attention, with reporters surrounding his locker for his weekly media availability. He had shed little light on that, often saying he was taking it ''day by day'' and was eager to resume playing.

Approached after practice Friday to comment on his status against the Jets (3-3), Gronkowski joked, ''Ask Matt,'' as he looked at tight end Matthew Mulligan at a nearby locker. A Patriots official said Gronkowski already had fulfilled his media obligations for the week and wouldn't answer questions.

Gronkowski had told reporters on Thursday that ''I'm just improving every week. That's all. Like I said, nothing has changed.''

The Patriots are 14th in the NFL in average yards gained and 22nd in points per game. They led the league in both categories last season then didn't re-sign their top two wide receivers, Wes Welker and Brandon Lloyd. They cut tight end Aaron Hernandez after he was arrested and before he was charged with first-degree murder. He pleaded not guilty to that charge and five weapons-related charges and is being held without bail.

The 6-foot-6 Gronkowski is a huge, reliable target. He has 187 catches in his 43 games with the Patriots and set NFL records in 2011 for tight ends with 1,327 yards receiving and 18 touchdowns. He also is outstanding in the red zone, an area where the Patriots have struggled.

They rank 30th in the NFL with nine touchdowns on 22 trips inside the 20-yard line after leading the league last season.

Gronkowski's return would be a departure from the team's recent trend of losing key players.

Linebacker Jerod Mayo, the NFL's leading tackler since 2010, went on season-ending injured reserve Wednesday after having surgery for a torn chest muscle sustained in last Sunday's 30-27 win over the New Orleans Saints. Defensive tackle Vince Wilfork, a five-time Pro Bowler, also is on the list. They were the team's defensive co-captains. On Friday, the Patriots named defensive end Rob Ninkovich and defensive back Devin McCourty to those positions.

The other starting defensive tackle, Tommy Kelly, will miss his second straight game with a knee injury. Wide receiver Danny Amendola also is listed as out with a concussion and groin injury. Star cornerback Aqib Talib returned to practice Friday but is doubtful after hurting his hip against the Saints. Running back Leon Washington, who has played a limited role, is out with an ankle injury.

Pacquiao getting good workout from sparring partners

Manny Pacquiao, right, throws a punch to Juan Manuel Marquez during their third bout in Las Vegas, Nevada, in November 2011.

BOXING

Manny Pacquiao's sparring partners are playing their roles so well that the coaching staff see no need to bring in new ones for the duration of training camp.

This developed after Briton Liam Vaughan, Ghanaian Fredrick Lawson and Filipino Dan Nazareno Jr. again made Pacquiao sweat it out in their sparring sessions yesterday afternoon at Pacman's Wild Card Gym in General Santos City.

"They really poured it on against Manny," assistant trainer Nonoy Neri told the Inquirer in Filipino. "They gamely traded shots and pressed on the attack."

The more than 50 onlookers gave Pacquiao and his spar mates a round of applause after the ring session supervised by American trainer Freddie Roach with help from Buboy Fernandez and Neri.

"They (sparring partners) made Manny perspire and this is what Freddie wants (to develop Manny's stamina," Neri added. "So far, Freddie has no intention of bringing in new ones."

According to Neri, among the three it was Vaughan, a light middleweight from Liverpool, who moves a lot like Rios.

"For three rounds, he (Vaughan) brought the fight to Manny and he's around 165 to 170 pounds."

Nazareno also imitated Rios' attacking style for two rounds, while the unbeaten Lawson, getting familiar with Pacquiao's style, likewise spent two rounds with the Fighter of the Decade who is preparing for his welterweight showdown with Brandon Rios on Nov. 24 in Macau.

Sign-up for Hyatt golf tournament still on

Registration for the 18th Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic is still on going.

The Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic will be held on Nov. 16 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort and will have competition in the following divisions: A Flight (for players with 0-11 handicap; B Flight (12-20 handicap; C Flight (20 and above handicap); Senior (golfers in the 55 and above age group); and Ladies, which will have a double peoria format.

The Top 3 finishers in each flight will receive prizes. The champions will get a one night accommodation in a Presidential suite, Sunday brunch at Giovanni's for two, and a Swedish massage at i Saguá Spa for two, while runners-up will take home one night accommodation in a Regency Executive suite and Sunday brunch at Giovanni's for two. The third finisher will get a one night accommodation in a Regency Club room and Sunday brunch at Giovanni's for two.

Through this annual event, Hyatt Regency Saipan, the Make-A-Wish foundation, and its supporters will fulfill the lifelong dreams of children with terminal illnesses. This year's tournament will also benefit other non-profit organizations through its corporate responsibility platform, Hyatt Thrive (for more information on Hyatt Thrive visit thrive.hyatt.com).

Hyatt Regency Saipan is inviting teams, sponsors and golf enthusiasts to help make this worthwhile cause a success. If you want to make a donation, consider a monetary or in-kind contribution by contacting Club at the Hyatt office at 234 1234 extension 26 or send email to cath@hyattsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Joeten Memorial Golf Classic set for Nov. 9

The Joeten Memorial Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort.

The tournament will be a stroke play, low gross format. First, second, and third place winners in the Championship, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors flights will each receive prizes.

In addition to winner prizes, the Joeten Memorial Golf Classic will be offering prizes for hole-in-one, closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and most accurate buy-ins.

The tournament will be followed by an awards lunch banquet and raffle. The raffle will have $1 and $5 tickets, and will include some great prizes.

Registration fee is $95 and forms are available at all Joeten locations, Ace Hardware, Joeten Superstore,The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, AllStar Sporting Goods, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters. Completed forms can be turned in and paid at Joeten Motors Parts Department using cash, check, or credit card.

For information about this tournament, contact Somia Quan at 234-6446 or via email at joetenmgc@joeten.com ***(PR)***

MHS

From Page 28

The Lady Dolphins squandered a 12-point lead in the third quarter, allowing the Lady Knights to send the game in overtime before getting the breaks in the extension. The short-handed Mt. Carmel was held to 2 points in the last 2:36 of the overtime period as it played without top gunner Jan Travilla, who suffered from cramps after playing without relief.

Before Travilla left, MHS was only ahead by a deuce, 70-68. Dianne Pablo made it a 4-point cushion, 72-68, as she went for an uncontested layup off a pick and roll play with Travilla failing to slide down on defense as she dropped on the floor, grimacing in pain.

With Travilla gone, the Lady Knights were down to five players with four of them having no breather and fatigue finally took its toll on them, allowing the Lady Dolphins more easy baskets. Pablo feasted inside, notching 8 more points to lift MHS to the 12-point overtime win.

Michelle Kautz sent the game in overtime when she canned a basket in the last 7.7 seconds of the regulation. Earlier, Mt. Carmel took a 4-point lead, 62-58, for a big turnaround since falling behind, 32-44, in the first few minutes of the third period.

Two straight baskets from Jeraldine Castillo evened up the match, 62-all, with 1:43 left, and Mt. Carmel had several chances to regain the lead when it attempted at least five shots in the paint after regaining possession, but muffed all of them. Gabrielle Race finally collared the rebound for MHS and pushed the ball for a Dolphins' fastbreak play, which was preempted by a Mt. Carmel foul.

At the resumption of the game, Castillo went for the inbound play from the baseline and caught the Lady Knights' defense napping, as she made a pass to Pablo underneath for the go-ahead basket, 64-62, with 43 seconds left on the clock.

The next 30 seconds of the match then became a helter-skelter game, as teams traded errors with the Lady Dolphins committing the last one with Ito throwing an errant pass to Castillo and Reyes picking up the loose ball. Reyes then kicked off a pass to Travilla on the right corner and the latter pulled up for a triple. She made an airball, but fortunately, Michelle Kautz was at the right place at the right time for the putback and the equalizer.

With the clock down to seven seconds and both teams left without a time out, MHS rushed for the inbound play, but failed to attempt a decent shot, as Castillo threw up a prayer just a few steps past the midcourt with the ball just bouncing down the floor near the 15-foot line as time expired.

In overtime, Mt. Carmel scored first off Travilla's drive before the Lady Knights gassed out against the much deeper bench of the Lady Dolphins.

JUNIOR VARSITY
MBA 29, MHS 13

In the junior varsity game, Marianas Baptist Academy dominated MHS for its second straight win.

The Storms held the Lady Dolphins scoreless in the second quarter and 2 points in the third to cruise to victory.

Chelsea Bartolo paced MBA with her 9 points, while Janicia Richards chipped in 8. Chris Obaldo, Denise Samson, and Vanessa Bartolo were the other scorers for the Stormz, who came from a 52-6 thrashing of Saipan Southern High School last Thursday.

Against Southern, MBA shut out the Lady Rays in the first and third periods en route to the huge 47-point winning margin.

First Game

MBA 29 – C. Bartolo 9, Richards 8, Obaldo 5, Samson 4, V. Bartolo 2.

MHS 13 – Vergara 7, Abadilla 3, Ada 2, Bergosa 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-4, 15-4, 23-6, 29-13.

Second Game

MHS 82 – Ito 23, Pablo 18, Castillo 14, Reyes 6, Lopez 6, Race 4, Rastguiy 4, Farro 2, Gatchalian 1.

MCS 70 – Travilla 20, Lebria 15, M. Kautz 15, R. Kautz 12.

Scoring by quarters: 17-14, 30-25, 50-47, 64-64, 82-70.

SIS

From Page 28

Christian Academy kept the No. 2 spot in the seven-team field after defeating Saipan Southern High School in the first game on the south court. The Eagles booked the automatic win against the Manta Rays after notching 25-17, 25-15 victories in the first two. GCA went on to complete the sweep and improved to a 6-1 record with a 15-8 triumph in the third set.

Southern dropped to a 3-4 card for a three-way tie for third to fifth place with the MHS Dolphins and Mt. Carmel School. The Dolphins and Knights squared off in the second game on the south court with the latter shutting out the former. Mt. Carmel eked out a 25-23 victory in the first set and got the early win after prevailing anew in the second set, 25-20. The Knights went on blank the Dolphins after a 15-10 win in the third set.

Meanwhile, the second and final round of the MISO volleyball league continues today with MBA taking on Mt Carmel in the first game on the north court at 4:30pm and MHS meeting Southern on the south end. In the second game on the north court, SIS puts its clean slate at stake against the Knights, while GCA collides against Kagman on the south side.

BLUE HAUS

From Page 28

Though it absorbed its fourth straight loss, PIC played its best game so far in the season. It led Laguna in the first half and was still in the game in the fourth quarter before falling short in the end.

James Abuy finally played for PIC and together with Butch Sublemente and Raymund Tolentino, they stunned Laguna in the first period, 21-15. PIC kept the lead at the break, 41-40, before Jun Tabora and Jun Alipio took over for Laguna and grabbed the upper hand at the end of the third, 71-68. Alipio and Tabora combined for 21 of Laguna's 31 points in the third.

The game remained close in the fourth quarter with Tolentino's banked shot moving PIC within a basket, 80-82, with less than four minute left in the match. Sensing trouble, Laguna sued for time and when the game resumed, it launched a 13-5 windup to end PIC's hopes of entering the win column. Tabora this time teamed up with Melvin Villarin in closing out the match.

Tabora finished with a season-high 39 points, while Alipio and Villarin chipped in 16 and 13, respectively. Abuy had 20 points for PIC, which drew 18 markers each from Sublemente and Tolentino.

First Game

Laguna 96 – Tabora 39, Alipio 16, Villarin 13, Zapanta 9, Geli 8, Catalla 4, Guinto 4, Darag 1.

PIC 85 – Abuy 20, Sublemente 18, Tolentino 18, Bartolo 9, Baterina 4, Hernandez 4, J. Ricafort 4, Bea 2, Apasan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-21, 40-41, 71-68, 96-85.

Second Game

Blue Haus 112 – Pangelinan 22, Rebuyon 21, Mendoza 11, Guiab 10, Santos 8, Manabat 4, J. Fernandez 4, S. Fernandez 4, Palacios 4, Manabat 3.

Degree 83 – Jinang 17, Pablo 13, De Guzman 9, Ocampo 8, De La Torre 8, Drilon 6, Valdez 6, Tobias 5.

Scoring by quarters: 27-16, 55-42, 82-66, 112-83

The Week in Sports

Rain slows down tournaments anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rain did not go away last week, forcing the cancellations of several outdoor competitions on Saipan.

The 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League rescheduled its title game between the pennant champion Padres and Braves. The winner-take-all finale was originally set for last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, but the venue was left soggy by the continuous rain brought by typhoon Francisco.

The Padres advanced to the first finals after beating the Braves in the first semis game, while the Braves finally marched into the final match after eliminating the Dodgers.

Games in the M-League were also called off due to the unplayable Oleai Sports Complex Field. Sunday's matches in Division 1 were cancelled along with the Wednesday and Thursday's games in Division 2.

Over at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, the DL Corp. caging did not play last Wednesday and Friday due to rain. Only games last Monday were completed with Island Manpower and Chinatown Saints beating the Bandits and Kixx Engine Oil, respectively.

Still in basketball, the MISO caging had its games at the indoor Marianas High School Gymnasium. The MHS Dolphins beat the Mt. Carmel Lady Knights in the varsity division game last Friday, while the latter downed Saipan Southern High School last Thursday. In the junior varsity division, Marianas Baptists Academy swept its games last week, topping Southern and MHS.

In the MISO volleyball, Saipan International School remained unbeaten in seven games to keep the lead in the seven-team field. Grace Christian Academy is in second place with a 6-1 record, followed by MHS, Southern and Mt. Carmel, which have identical 3-4 records, MBA (2-5), and Kagman (0-5).

Over at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex, Blue Haus took the solo in the Masters caging after routing Degree. Also winning their games in the Masters division were Armatech/MDX and Laguna/Erika's Catering.

Still at the TSL Sports Complex, the Northern Marianas Badminton Association kicked off the Tan Holdings Open 2013 (doubles tournament) with over 60 players joining the two-weekend competition.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A participant in the women's mixed doubles C of the Tan Holdings Open 2013 serves against Mikki Caracut and Patricia Abantao last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Leo Canedo is defended by two Shakir Realty players during the third quarter of their game in the UFO Masters caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aries Cordero stretches for a return during his and Chris Hilario's men's doubles B game against Deether Edralin and J.P. Nopia in the Tan Holdings Open 2013 last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Gus Palacios escapes the defense of Degree's Ariel Drilon for a layup during the fourth quarter of their game in the UFO Masters caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Dianne Pablo looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as she is covered by Mt. Carmel School's Jan Travilla during the overtime period of their varsity game in the MISO caging last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School, left, and Grace Christian Academy players battle at the net during their game in the MISO volleyball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Red Sox oust Tigers to advance to World Series

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nets retire Kidd's No. 5, then beat Heat

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MHS outlasts Mt. Carmel in overtime

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School's Jeraldine Castillo drives against Mt. Carmel School's Jan Travilla during the second quarter of their varsity game in the MISO caging last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School needed extra five minutes to thwart the pesky Mt. Carmel School, 82-70, in the varsity game in the 2013-2014 MISO Girls Basketball League last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

See MHS on Page 26

SIS *still unscathed in volleyball league*

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School flirted with its first loss of the season before outlasting Marianas Baptist Academy in the 2013-2014 MISO Boys Volleyball League last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Geckos were stunned in the opening set, 20-25, of their game against the Stormz last Wednesday in the second game on the north court before pulling off hard earned wins in the last two sets, 25-22, 15-8, to extend their winning run to seven.

MBA played two matches last week, notching an earlier victory over Kagman High School. The Stormz booked the outright win after sweeping the Ayuyus in the first two sets, 25-20, 25-19. Though MBA had the win in the bag, it still slugged it out with Kagman in the third set with the Ayuyus posting a nail-biting victory, 15-14.

With a split in last week's games, MBA gained a 2-5 record for sixth place in the team standings, while victory remained elusive for Kagman, which fell to a 0-5 record.

In other results, Grace

See SIS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Two Saipan International School players leap to block a shot from a Grace Christian Academy player during their game in the first round of the MISO volleyball league early this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Blue Haus routs Degree in UFO Masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus took the solo lead in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League after pounding Degree/UPAA, 112-83, in the second game last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

The expected close match between two unbeaten teams ended in a lopsided one, as Blue Haus (3-0) caught Degree (3-1) by surprise early in the first quarter, as the division leader pushed a 12-2 lead. Degree scored the first basket in the game off Ferdie Tobias' bucket, but Blue Haus quickly answered with 10 straight points to take control of the match from thereon.

Edgar Pangelinan's triples, Francis Rebuyon's short banked jumpers, and Blue Haus fast-break plays and second chance baskets made it difficult for Degree to climb out of a big hole in the first half. Blue Haus led by as much as 22 points in the first 20 minutes of play, 51-29, before Degree moved within 13 at the break, 42-55.

Degree cut the deficit to as low as 9 in the opening minutes of the third canto, 46-55, but 3 straight points from Edsel Mendoza brought order back to Blue Haus. Blue Haus went on to dominate the last seven minutes of the third period with Rebuyon showing no respect to Degree's defense, scoring 10 points in that period.

Pangelinan picked up where Rebuyon left off, opening the fourth with back-to-back triples. Both players finished with 20-plus points, as Rebuyon had a game-high 24 and Pangelinan chipped in 22. Mendoza also had twin digits for Blue Haus, drilling 11, while Junar Guiab added 10.

Arile Jinang top-scored for Degree with his 17 markers, nailing a couple of triples in the first half in a futile bid to keep his team afloat. Dindo Pablo contributed 13, while Alex Ocampo was held to 8 points. The mobile forward, who scored in twin digits in Degree's first three wins and averaged 18.3 points per match, had a shooting nightmare against Blue Haus. He made only three field goals in the entire game and was scoreless in the fourth, missing a bunch of short jumpers and a couple of close range shots.

Blue Haus' Junar Guiab is double teamed by Degree's Ariel Drilon, left, and Alex Ocampo during the third quarter of their game in the UFO Masters caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Laguna 96, PIC 85

In the first game, Laguna notched its second consecutive win after outclassing Pacific Islands Club.

See BLUE HAUS on Page 26